



Series: Feng Yu Jiu Tian or Phoenix Heavenly Voyage

Volume 2: Crown Prince Legation Abroad

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Translate from Da-Lac: mnemea

Editor: Wantsome (wait for a copy)

Warning: Soft Yaoi

Note: Yellow highlighted name that translated to Vietnamese.

Ruo Yan Kingdom has the same name of Li King (Ruo Yan), the kingdom then changed to Yong Yin. The name changed mention around the end of chapter 16 in Chinese raw as author note insert so I had taken that note out of the translation since it too confusing and from started of the story called Ruo Yan Kingdom as Yong Yin.

Chapter I

The journey started in the next morning; hence, Chiu Lian arranged to help Feng Ming dressed very early the next day.

The crown prince journeyed abroad as an ambassador, mean there many critical burdensome ceremonies occurred, without furthermore note, raiment and adornments of course the most essential items taken for the journey. Other items includes: medicines, external garments, shoes, court robes, pearls & gem ornaments... As for Feng Ming, who stood likes a wooden puppet for two hours so that Chiu Lian and other servants fully clad the costumes on him.

"It's all good." Chiu Yue taken a step back and looked up and down for a while, laughed, "There is no Crown Prince in the world as equally beautiful as our Xi-Rei's Prince?"

Although Feng Ming only felt head numbed causing by the gold crown and his body sores from

top to bottom. His thought drifted back of have to '*take risk*' travelling to Fan Jia, though he a bit scared, but also excited.

Chiu Xing used taken care and served Feng Ming, knew that not only his characteristics were excellent, but also very friendly toward everyone, hence she giggled, "I really want for Duke Rong to see you now! How much His Grace would have praises you. "

"Not just Duke Rong, even Fan Jia's Third Princess, when she set her eyes on the Prince could not keep its off him for that matter!"

"But, When Duke Rong is going to come?"

"Yesterday, had he not said he could not see the prince departed because he was very busy with nation's affair matters?"

"I do not believe it. The Prince is on legation abroad; there is no way His Grace would not come?"

When Feng Ming heard the name "Duke Rong", he angrily snorted. Suddenly outside of the prince's quarter, sounds of hurried footsteps were incoming, making his heart beaten rapidly. Asymptotically, two people walked through doors, into the prince's quarter, reverently raised their voices,

"Greeting Your Highness, Crown Prince!"

"Greeting Your Highness, Crown Prince!"

It was Tong general and Xia Guan. These two people dressed equally impressive, it seemed that they both gone through similar struggling processes.

"Oh it just you two ..." Feng Ming could not bring himself appreciated their elaborate clothes, when he saw Duke Rong was not with them, his face become darker, and his spirit gloomy as well.

Tong general respectfully spoken, "Duke Rong commanded, that your subjects assisted Your Royal Highness on this mission. I have brought five thousand troops for your royal escort and definitely ensured Your Highness will be protecting from harm."

"Xia Guan complied with royal decree from Duke Rong, takes care of Your Highness health, and I have brought herbals and essential medicines in case of emergency."

Feng Ming endured suppressing until they done and asked, "Where is Duke Rong?"

"Duke Rong is very busy with diplomatic affairs, could not in person be here, so ordered your subordinate on behalf of His Grace to pay respect to you. Of course..."

"What's more?"

Tong general took out a sword from behind, respectfully place forward with both hands, clear voiced, "Furthermore, Duke Rong has ordered that this sword should give to Your Highness in person."

Feng Ming indignation revealed on his face, "Hnn, why bring a sword here?" The more he thoughts about it the more he irritated, pointed at Chiu Lian, "Take that dog chew toy here!"

Chiu Lian covered her mouth, whispered, "Your Highness Crown Prince, please do not called this as dog chew toy."

Someone chuckled from behind, Feng Ming realised what he had just spoken and his face started flushing all over.

Chiu Xing walked forward and whispered, "If Your Highness wishes to see Duke Rong, yours servant could send someone to invite His Grace here."

"Who wants to see him? Do not go! "

Tong general tried very hard to maintain his serious attitude; his hand had not shifted still raising

the sword and wait for Feng Ming took over. Xia Guan laughed a lot, saw that it was longer early morning, held back his smile, took the sword then enquired, "Your Royal Highness, do you know the background of this sword?"

Finally, Feng Ming takes a closer look at the sword, a long thin body, and the handle inlaid a large brilliant pearl; it looked so ordinary that impossible to recognise its origin. The sword seemed not worthy to take a second glance, compared to the other weapons that usually displayed in the palace.

He suddenly remembered the story "The Duke of Mount Deer ". Wei Xiao Bao who had a dagger, would cut clean through iron like mud. He thought, *'perhaps Duke Rong had intentionally been seeking a similar worldly treasure, used hundreds of thousands plots to get a sword like that for me? Hn, even if he did offering me that kind of sword I shall not forgive him.'*

"What is the sword background?" he said and curious looked over, drawn the sword out of the scabbard. The body reflected no light. He slashed it downward onto the table but not even a scratch was mark, it could not compete with the sharp sword in his imagination. Feng Ming even more disappointed, threw the sword on the table and raised his eyebrows, "Definitely a broken sword!"

"Your Highness please do not be angry, please listen to Xia Guan slowly recounted the origin of this sword." Xia Guan kowtowed before Feng Ming, used both of his hands raised the sword that Feng Ming had thrown aside, his face was solemn, said slowly, "This sword known as

“Unparallel”, one of three grandest weapons and the greatest treasure of Xi-Rei. The sword is not sharp, nor splendour, and to use this to kill the enemy would have been better to take a kitchen knife instead. Nonetheless, it still called the greatest weapon; could Your Highness guessed the reason why? "

Chapter II

Feng Ming looked around found everyone faces were also bewildering, so even more curious, shook his head said, "How should I know?"

"Haha, the mystic sword of Xi-Rei have always been preserved by the royal family, rarely mentioned, thus not well known to others which were not unusual. Xia Guan greatest leisure was pursuits of anything that bizarre in the world, so for this weapon I knew the background." After bragged about him, Xia Guan continues, "'Unparalleled" sword actually comes as pair swords. It legend recorded An Shi brothers; the protector of the land had a monster as a mortal sworn enemy. The two sides fought very fiercely, but many years passed were unable to kill the monster. In the end, they reluctantly used a risky strategy."

When they listened to this part, Tong general unable to prevent his curiosity and asked, "Oh? What was the risky strategy? "

"The brother adept use of magic charm, they took ten years, with great efforts had moulded a pair of magical swords, hidden inside the sword with an incantation which unrivalled."

"Incantation that is unparalleled?"

"Yes, an unequalled incantation." Xia Guan nodded, "When An Shi brothers casted the swords, they invoked an oath on them, the intention: These swords are a pair but the owners of the sword will have one fate. Therefore, when one holder of the sword dies, the other one surely perished as well. "

Feng Ming eyes widened, "Could it be that they entrusted one sword to the monster, while one of the brother held onto one then committed suicide, so that the linked indirectly destroyed the monster?"

Xia Guan admired studying Feng Ming, sighed, "Your Royal Highness' brilliant, indeed the sword is a unique treasure. "Unparallel Swords", the monster indirectly held one, and the older brother held the other. When the older brother killed himself, the monster eventually died too, while the younger brother survived and continued ruling over the land. The land prospered and eventually established into Xi-Rei Kingdom. The younger brother was our first Xi-Rei King. The

“Unparallel Swords” returned to the King, carefully hidden inside the palace, and until now, it appeared once again."

Everyone simultaneously turned to ogle at the “Unparallel” sword in Xia Guan hands, first they had thoughts that it was an ordinary blunt sword, but now it wrapped in layer of mystique.

Chiu Lian trembled for a moment, lightly said, "Xia Guan teacher, so ... so why Duke Rong wants to give such a dreadful object to the Crown Prince?"

Feng Ming stared at the “Unparallel” sword that seemed abundantly flow of extraordinary power, took a deep breath and reached out takes hold of it. He bent and absently stroked the sword for a long, sadly said, "I ... I shall take care of myself."

Xia Guan overjoyed, his face showed a thoughtful smile, glanced at Tong general, as they bowed simultaneously and shouted, "Your subjects absolutely do our best to protect the Crown Prince, and not failed what Duke Rong entrusted!"

Xia Guan added, "The time has come, please Your Royal Highness let started the journey."

Feng Ming nodded. Chiu Lian was clever, quickly ran over, removed the contemporary pearl sword from the waist and replaced with the “Unparallel” sword.

Everyone departed the prince's quarter, Chiu Xing was the last person, pulled Chiu Yue's sleeve and frowned, "Hey, I do not understand, why the Crown Prince was not angry?"

"What do you said, the “Unparallel” are a pair swords, and the Crown Prince currently holds one sword, where do you think the other one will be?"

"Ah...I know it's..."

Chiu Yue quickly covered her mouth and laughed, "You know now right? Let leave quickly, our carriage ought to be immediately departure after the prince's carriage."

Consequence, Xi-Rei Crown Prince An He led Tong Jian Ming general, Strategist Royal Counsellor Xia Guan and five thousand soldiers, slowly marched on the road for the diplomat mission to Fan Jia.



Chapter III

The Crown Prince going abroad as a diplomat so the local officials met on the journey of course had done everything they could to accommodate his needs. The team journeyed extremely smooth for seven consecutive days; finally, they stepped out of Xi-Rei border.

The road from Xi-Rei to Fan Jia must crossing over a country called Yong Yin. The terrains of Yong Yin respectively similar compared to Xi-Rei, most of the lands were mountain ranges and surrounded by three countries: Xi-Rei, Fan Jia and Tong Kingdom which adjacent to each other.

In this era there are many great countries, therefore to see one or two embassy crossing the other was not rare, although many likely passed through the road of Yong Yin's borderland. Therefore, the soldiers posted here for defence do not have the habit to check the large convoy which passing. However, Feng Ming's group reluctantly stopped at the border and waited for the transits paperwork that processes at the nearby town, which had taken the whole day.

When nightfall, the local official Zhang Qian invited the convoy of Feng Ming attending a reception banquet. In mist of excitement, everyone constantly encouraged offer alcohol to each other. Tong general was firmly gripped the sword handle and refused to touch a drop of wine, since he takes the protection responsibility of the crown prince; only Xia Guan known for lover of wine, high tolerance for alcohol, easily able to drink hundreds of cups and still be fine. An He, the previous prince also had reputation for wine lover hence Feng Ming forced to drink. Nonetheless, he never drinks before, only a few cups were already dizzy and not able to set apart

the heaven and earth. Feng Ming heard mixture of sounds, music and voices intertwined with each other, then felt fainted, and head spun.

When he woke up early the next morning, the disastrous drunken consequences revealed.

Feng Ming's head felt like cracking, blurred eyes as he slowly opened the eyes though his alertness yet restored. He rested a palm on his forehead and moaning pitifully.

"Had Crown Prince awaken?"

'Who is talking?' whomever spoken beside the ear, he never heard this voice before!

Feng Ming forced himself to turn around instantly started.

Right next to him, covered with same blanket was a good-looking teenager; long eyelashes willow eyebrows, skin-clear likes emerald gem glossed, hair loose hanging on the shoulder. It was a man, but his movements were very gentle, appealed like those immoral woman.

Nevertheless, the worse was from head to toe, the man seemed completely naked! Only a tiny piece of loincloth revealed from what the barely concealed arm, moreover, red marks covered over the smooth skin, those deep colours caused Feng Ming's face brightly blushed.

Feng Ming played with Duke Rong scurry here and there; of course, knew where these sorts of traces originated. In addition, based on the colour mark, probably form of last night ecstasy.

"You ... who are you? Why are you here? "

"Crown Prince how could you have forgets your servant?" He winked, stared devotedly at Feng Ming, nodded and lips pressed, "Although Tong General advised Your Highness last night for very long time, but the Crown Prince refused to let me out of sight."

"What?" Feng Ming howled, did not have the courage to look directly at the teenager, remembered Duke Rong once said, men sexuality respected everywhere, even with the royal family, their subjects often-offered men favour as gifts for promotion. Feng Ming tried to recall last night event, but there no memories remained! He began anxious, pulled the blanket up to look at the inside corner, immediately fallen out of bed.

The teenager body was naked in bed; there was no piece of clothe on his body!

In such a case, no need to ask to know what had happened last night.

The teenager laughed loudly, "Is Crown Prince alright? Last night Your Highness was very bold, today morning your form changed completely. Is it because Your Highness no longer interested in Lie-er anymore? "

When he stopped talking instantly, slowly moved closer, terrified Feng Ming that he retreating backward until the head bang against the bedpost. Lie-er stopped instantly and pouted, "Prince,

why are you afraid of Lie-er? Lie-er should be afraid of Your Highness. Your Highness takes a look; last night very roughed that almost died on the bed." He exposed his slender arms which occupying many dark purple spots.

If he swapped place with others, they may felt immense of prides. However, Feng Ming greatly ashamed as his face blushed; the first time with a man rolled pleurably in bed, and made the other body covered bruises of kisses marks.

He heard alcohol changed a person characteristic, so should not have touched that!

Feng Ming felt thousand times regretted, and stammered, "Misunderstanding ... this is just wrong ..."

"Misunderstanding?" Lie-er looked gloomy at Feng Ming, his eyes rounded, sparkling and full of tears. Feng Ming felt unease as he saw those eyes, was about comfort the teenager with a few words, Lie-er suddenly grinned, revealing two small dimples on the cheek and gently scorned, "The Crown Prince said was a misunderstanding, then it is mistake."

Feng Ming relaxed for a bit, before Lie-er fiercely continued, "Lie-er is a servant of a rich person at Yong Yin borderland. Last night Prince had kept Lie-er and would not let go, so the old master had given Lie-er to Your Highness." He released the blanket and stepped out of bed, knelt down on the cold icy stone and kowtowed, "Crown Prince already is Lie-er owner. If last night Prince

was unhappy with Lie-er's serving, pleaded for Your Highness's discretion imposed punishment, Lie-er's absolutely would not complain."

Feng Ming never expected the other teenager made such move, hastily exclaimed, "What are you doing? Hurry stand up; or you will be freeze to death. "

"Lie-er is just a lowly servant status, if the Prince disgusted and bored with Lie-er, then perhaps it would be best for Your Highness bestowed Lie-er's death."

It was the middle of winter; snow heavily soared outside and dispersed everywhere, Lie-er naked body instantly affected by the cold air, which infiltrated into the body, the skin went pale, shaking constantly. Feng Ming traumatized, barefoot jumped down from the bed and pulled Lie-er back inside the blanket, surrendered, "I do not bored nor hated you, begged you please do not asking for death as reward."

Lie-er's rubbed his eyes, "If Crown Prince does not need Lie-er; Lie-er will have to die."

"I did not say I don't want you."

Feng Ming thoughts for a while, he saw the hopefulness on Lie-er face, continued thinking, *'the servants in this era have strange ideology, so I could not comply the human rights perspective of the new era, if not he may killed himself.'* After contemplation, he assertive nodded, "You could

follow and serve me, helping with tea, pouring water, but ..." He stressed tone, "Absolutely, absolutely do not climbing on my bed again."

"Yes." Lie-er nodded.

"Even when I'm drunk and called, you will not go up."

"Yes." Lie-er nodded again, his delicate eyebrows knitted and whispered, "But if I'm not listened to the master's order ..."

"I am now advised you. Such case happened again like last night, if I drunk then you thrown cold water onto my face until I regained consciousness!"

Lie-er looked confuse at Feng Ming, but eventually said, "Yes."

Feng Ming undertone asked, "Hey, I ask you of last night event, beside Tong General, anyone else know? None seen us, right? "

"Your servant doesn't know." Lie-er shook his head, "Your servant only was paying attention to the Prince."

"Hopefully no one knew." Feng Ming's tongue stuck out.

He searched his mind for a strategy to hide this terrible event, outside his room suddenly Chiu Yue voice echoed.

"Yours Royal Highness, Xia Guan teacher said we have to prepare for our departure, pleaded Crown Prince leaved the bed and change clothes."

Chiu Lian said, "We should go in to serve the Prince."

Feng Ming glanced over Lie-er, who was naked beneath the blanket, instantly screamed, "Do not! Do not come in! "

Chiu Lian and Chiu Yue glanced at each other, stopped and waited outside at the door did not dare to go any further.

"Prince?"

"I'm a little under the weather; do not want to see anyone. Please stand outside and waited there."

"Your Highness is unwell? Your maidservant will go to get Xia Guan teacher."

"No! Do not!" Feng Ming tensely sat up, pretended to cough twice said desperately, "I feels

uncomfortable not because of illness, I'm in good health, just need time to adjusted to new place. Well, even if I told you, you would not understand. Please go back, if I have not command, regardless of anyone, not allowed them to enter."

The three people stood outside dismayed and hesitated for a moment then replied, "Yes."

Feng Ming rushed changing his clothes; the royal dresses were complex, which had always served by Chiu Lian. If not then Duke Rong helped him to put them on, now that he fumbled for himself, although it was messy before now even more troublesome, his hands and feet were scrambled. Lie-er already finished dresses, turned, saw Feng Ming and smiled, formal saluted "Please let your servant, Lie-er helped Your Highness dressing."

In the end, he did help Feng Ming.

Feng Ming worried that what happened last night, the teenager may takes advantage while changing would fumble randomly; however, Lie-er devoted changing his clothes, did not fool around, which made Feng Ming a little more relaxed.

When dressing done, Feng Ming turned to face Lie-er, "First be good and quietly waited here for me. I will be out and comes back later. If you want your freedom, you're welcome to leave here." He often heard Duke Rong used it and coaxed him countless times, the words "be good" collected from him.

Lie-er shook his head, "Your servant will not run, certainly served Crown Prince. Your servant never sees one as good master as Your Highness."

Feng Ming knew his people hurried preparing for the journey, and the ideology of slavery could not fixed overnight, so he could not speak just patted on the Lie-er's shoulder.

Outside the door, he saw Chiu Lian waiting at the side of his carriage.

Chiu Yue helped Feng Ming to lift the thick heavy curtain up and invited him to step inside the carriage. Chiu Xing turned to look around for a long, and then back to Feng Ming asked, "Crown Prince is he not coming?"

Feng Ming's throat dried, his stomach twisted, "Who?"

"That Lie-er guy, is he not a gift to Your Highness?"

Chiu Lian added, "Last night Your Highness requested for him, said sleeping alone at the night was very cold and he could help to keep you warm."

"Yes, Your Highness also said that if he refused to give Lie-er, definitely stolen him in the middle of the night."

Feng Ming ashamed that he almost fell down from the carriage, he cried without tears, "I was... what else had I said last night?"

The three girls saw his expression, knew something was not quite right, hastened silence, and shook their heads simultaneously.

Feng Ming's head bowed and could not believe he had been upset half a day for nothing. Since the whole world knew all about this. He no longer able to hide and turned to Chiu Lian, "Could you go to the room and tell Lie-er that he could followed us, said he does not need to be secretive but freely go. Anyway ... Anyway, everyone already knew. "

"Yes."

Lie-er received the news, completely overjoyed and followed Chiu Lian to see Feng Ming, saluted before climbing up the servants' carriage.

The convoy continued the journey. They have to travel eleven more days through Yong Yin before arrive Fan Jia.



永殷

永殷碼頭



王宮特色

當然比不上西雷或者離國這樣的大國氣派，畢竟財力有限嘛，普普通通，住得舒服就好。不過永殷喜歡垂簾和織物，王族和權貴家中，室內常常佈置不同的織物。例如垂簾啊、麻布等等鋪在桌面上，而且紡織物的表面常常會繡上精美圖案。

國家簡介

在大陸的中央地帶，與很多國家相鄰，是夾在大國狹縫中勉強生存的小國。永殷一向依靠強大的西雷庇護，和西雷關係較好。阿曼江有很長一段流經永殷，水路發達。出名的特產就是各種水產品，商船往來頻繁。就算糧食不豐收，但靠著收船運商人的碼頭費等，永殷貴族的日子都可以過得不錯了。

烈兒

容虎的弟弟，也是容恬貼身侍衛，曾長期潛伏在永殷王宮中，為容恬刺探情報，並且邂逅永殷太子，與之相愛。

烈兒外貌出眾，姿態誘人，性格活潑好動，說話大膽，身手敏捷，結束在永殷的任務後，被容恬派去跟隨鳳鳴，經常在鳳鳴身邊出鬼點子，和三大侍女吵嘴，是大家都非常喜歡的一個傢伙。甚至連最無情冷酷的敵人余浪，也情不自禁，對他生出了不被允許的感情……



Lie-er (Power/Strong Child/Man)

Chapter IV

Although the season was winter, there should still be some landscape scenery, unfortunately, at the border region of Yong Yin there only wide roads surrounded by wild paddocks or hills, after looked at it for a while anyone would grown tired at the sight.

Consecutive three days Feng Ming sat alone in the carriage, finally, hysterically fed up. He probed out of the window and saw Tong general impressively watched over the convoy, he called, "Tong General!"

Tong general instantly taken the horse closer, folded his hands and asked, "Crown Prince, what is your command?"

"How long will we arrive?"

"It would be very soon, at best should takes five or six days before we could leave Yong Yin and entered into the borderland of Fan Jia, and additional eleven more days until we arrive at the capital of Fan Jia."

Feng Ming complained, "so long?"

"This is very fast Your Highness. Fan Jia and Xi-Rei is not far apart, but if to travel to farther place as Dan Lin Kingdom, would have taken at least three months."

Feng Ming groaned for a while then he eyes shifted, saw a stallion under the massive body of Tong general, slyly smiled, "Tong General, your horse..."

"Yours Highness Crown Prince, served strictly under the order of Duke Rong, **‘this trip is very dangerous, on the road absolutely not permitted by any concessions or voluntarily for the Prince horse-riding to avoid problems’**. Tong Jian Ming for ten thousand times must not dared defy the words of Duke Rong commanded."

Listened to his serious tone, Feng Ming sadly buckled back into the carriage. If he knew this happened he would not go, if he not beaten to dead by Fan Jia's Princess then he shall bored to dead.

It was a hard journey until the evening that the convoy finally stopped. They set up the tents for camped overnight. Feng Ming jumped out of the carriage and the first inside as Chiu Lian and other two maidservants soon followed. When they helped Feng Ming to settle in the bed mattress, Chiu Xing suddenly said, "That Lie-er, I wonder what he is doing now?"

Chiu Yue laughed, "Whatever he do, does it matter? So that the reason you looked outside the curtain all day. Do you want to see him?"

Chiu Lian joined to tease Chiu Xing, "Frankly we could not hold her accountable for that, who told Lie-er to be too handsome."

"Tsk," Chiu Xing flushed and stood up, "Who says he's beautiful? I have not! Most beautiful, most wonderful, would only be our Crown Prince! "

Feng Ming felt it good opportunity removed the heavy weight which been on his shoulder, instantly laughed, said to Chiu Xing, "Do you want to see, how is Lie-er, I'll call him here."

Chiu Lian applauded, "Very good, let your maidservant called him right away." As expected, she scurried away.

A moment later, Chiu Lian brought Lie-er there. His clothes changed to those of the servant uniform; he went before Feng Ming saluted and asked, "Your Highness, what are your commands?"

"Nothing okay, how are you these last few days, did you get used to new routines?" Feng Ming looked carefully at Lie-er and felt something was not right.

Chiu Yue astonished calling out, boldly moved closer and stared at Lie-er, "Why have you lost weight?"

Chiu Lian said, "When I first saw him, your servant also noted how much skinnier he becomes, eyes swelled up, but when I asked he refused to say anything."

Feng Ming frowned, "Are you sick? Why not speak."

Lie-er remained silence.

Chiu Xing dropped beside Feng Ming's ear and whispered, "Your Highness should ask him whether he was bullied by the others?"

Feng Ming never noticed much of the other servants, surprised, "who had bullied you? Who is he? "

Lie-er forced smile shook his head, "Your servant was from Yong Yin, and as well a male gift (toy-boy), of course not strange for them disrespected me."

"Impertinent" Feng Ming stood up, angrily ranted, "I'll teach them a lesson."

Chiu Lian though young but precocious since she the longest person there served in the palace, she quickly grasped Feng Ming's sleeve, exhorted, "Your Highness, the servants at your side are all offered by the nobles, punished them would offended those Officials. Moreover, there are

other solutions, we of course must not let Lie-er sit on the same carriage with them, and this should solve the problem."

"That's right, currently, it useless to punish them since we're on the road. Just wait until we return to Xi-Rei, I settled all the score at once! "

Feng Ming pensive for a moment and inquired, "So which carriage should Lie-er sit? How about arrange him into yours' carriage. "

Chiu Lian laughed, "We are all maidservant, and he is a male. How could we share the carriage together?"

"Lie-er sits alone in one carriage?"

"That even worse, alone in a carriage, only more resentment and irritated others. They likely find excuses to bully him."

Feng Ming saw no other way, frowned thoughtful for a moment and eyes lighted up, "Let him stayed in my carriage, so I wouldn't be so bored anymore."

This was actually the best action so the three girls were not opposed to the idea.

Lie-er's spirit cheerful looked at Feng Ming and smiled sweetly. When he was not smiling

already looked perfect, but when he did smiled, it enough for Feng Ming recalled of the incident few nights ago, thus doubt and whispered inside, *'he is toy-boy, if we sat together in the same carriage... would I have to face resistance to his seduction.'*

His negative thoughts troubled him, but since he already accepted so he could not cry off. The next day, he forced to call Lie-er into the carriage with him.

Chapter V

Nonetheless, when Lie-er stayed with him proves to be extremely good-natured, huddled at a corner of the carriage and reading scrolls.

Feng Ming initially thought Lie-er played games, wearied for a while but discovered he gauged the situation of an unkind man mean to measure a gentleman's heart. Ashamed of his thought, Feng Ming started to warm Lie-er up for small talks.

"Lie-er, do you know any sightseeing places in Yong Yin, tell me about them."

Lie-er heard Feng Ming so he put the book down, "Places for sightseeing? Is Your Highness

means places that have beautiful landscape?" It seemed he very knowledgeable about Yong Yin landscape, so he started giving many details as they talked.

The days passed by so quietly, all the famous scenic spots of Yong Yin completely informed, not only Yong Yin but also the other places within the other eleven countries brought forth, one by one.

Feng Ming praised, "Lie-er is amazing, you knew many places."

Lie-er's face changed and covered up with a smile, "Your servant loved reading. In the past, all the books of the former master had read them all. Nevertheless, those great places I never have set foot there."

Since he had Lie-er as a companion so compared to the previous days it had become more interesting, Feng Ming also learnt many things. After five days, the convoy finally out of Yong Yin border, although it was daybreak of the next day, they arrived in Fan Jia's land.

Fan Jia received a document announcement that Xi-Rei's crown prince was coming for diplomat mission for quite some time, yet they only sent low profile officials in taken care of his reception. The low official spoken briefly and arranged the convoy continue the journey to the capital Yeu Xi, his sleeves seemed to point at all direction which shown incompetence. The reception was very cold and in contrasted to the border of Yong Yin.

Chiu Lian pouted, "What a lowly official. How infuriate that our Crown Prince arrived from far away. Hn, it seems they don't know hierarchy ranking."

Xia Guan despite the cold weather waved the fan in his hand said, "A maidservant doesn't know any better. Fan Jia Prince Consort's death in Xi-Rei, we arrived at their border and they have not greets us with swords, truly lucky for us."

Feng Ming listened, his face paler. Tong general saw him and laughed, "Crown Prince should not panic; Duke Rong earlier exchanged letters with Fan Jia King. If Fan Jia has no good intention for this meeting, Duke Rong would certainly not appeal Your Highness to be an ambassador."

Feng Ming heard and felt a little more reassured.

That night, when the convoy stayed at the border, after the group maidservants and Lie-er served Feng Ming then quietly leaved when he asleep. At midnight, suddenly there was a knock on the door softly, Feng Ming startled awaken and uttered "Who?"

"Your Highness, it's your subject. The night was long and very hard to sleep; I would like to have a confidence talked with Your Highness. "

Feng Ming sat up in bed and took the coat puts on his shoulders.

"Ah, Xia Guan's teacher please comes in."

"Sorry disturbed Crown Prince resting." Xia Guan pushed the door, upon inside he sat on the closer chair to the bed, "Your subject comes tonight, talked to Your Highness about the servant from Yong Yin."

"Lie-er, huh?"

"That's right."

Feng Ming asked suspiciously, "What is the matter with Lie-er?"

"Everything about him is suspicious. He ungainly stayed for no reason, become close intimacy with Your Royal Highness, of course inconvenient and untimely situation. The most suspicious reason was the people of Yong Yin always placed their homeland first, wherever possible would not leave their homeland. He sent out by his owner to live far away but did not try to flee not mournful either. When others bullied him, only endured and wait patiently which, tricked Your Highness allowed him staying on the same carriage. He can't be a simple person for someone to have plotted like this."

"You've considered ...?"

"If Xia Guan deduction was not mistaken, he definitely a spy from Yong Yin to place nears Your Highness." Xia Guan's eyes narrowed, said coldly, "Yong Yin King several years ago had a toy-boy, who pampered and beloved called Fu-er, a fortnight ago he premature death by illness. I have seen his portrait, very alike Lie-er. Therefore, we must question why everything was so conveniently and coincide like this? There must be a catch."

Feng Ming shuddered, "Lie-er is a spy of Yong Yin kingdom? However, why does he place near me? He wants to hurt me? "

Xia Guan smirked, shook his head said, "The Crown Prince too worry, temporarily he won't harm Your Highness. Since every country is secretly battling each other, spies in fact are many as ten thousands, so every important nobleman of course has several spies stuck to his heels? Lie-er of course, could be kept by your side, but do not let him contact with anything that are confidential. In the future if a war was broken out with Yong Yin, we could then use him as a pawn. Moreover for someone who was truly a delicate beauty is hard to find, if the Prince like him and wanted sharing his beds, should be no problem but please be careful so no damage done."

Spoken to this part Xia Guan laughed which embarrassed Feng Ming as he flushing, ashamed denied, "No, of course not."

Xia Guan stayed conversing for a while then unlocked the door to leave. The rest of the night

Feng Ming restless reminisced of Duke Rong, he felt if the other man at his side, even there is hundred times more spies he would not afraid. Feng Ming aggressively grinded his teeth, fumbled around the bed clutching for “Unparallel” cold sword, he gripped it closely against the chest. He unable goes back to sleep until dawn appeared on the sky.



王宮特色

比較中規中矩的宮廷，基本上沒有什麼特色，大氣不如西雷，精緻不如博間，浪漫不如東凡。

國家簡介

占地不多，但位於阿曼江下游，土壤肥沃，經常豐收。
王族中有才能的人不多，國君庸碌無為。
不過呢，盛產美女哦！天下第一美人嬭姬，就是繁佳人。

繁佳

Chapter VI

Since he knows Lie-er might be a spy of Yong Yin, Feng Ming dared not casually converse with Lie-er as before. Lie-er naturally noticed Feng Ming changing attitudes but not offended and remained same, every day sat beside Feng Ming and in evening, helped Chiu Lian's group serves Feng Ming.

Feng Ming discreetly observed Lie-er for several days found nothing unusual so he started comforting himself, *'in this ere there are countless of spies, this small foundation should not scared me, whereas Xia Guan teacher said that he will not hurt me.'* Feng Ming decided he should treat Lie-er like a yeast infection, though a bacteria but cause no harm.

With the thought the heart gradually contented as he stood up and walked around.

The carriages rolled straight from the border of Fan Jia for eleven days, eventually reached the capital Fan Jia – Yeu Xi City.

The winter season in Yeu Xi City was very much more beautiful compared to Xi-Rei. The beauty was not only from the flowers bloom in winter, but also from the thousands of bright and colourful garments, such as pink, purple wore by many happy woman who walked around on the streets, given the impression dotted of winter which jubilant bustling.

Feng Ming went through the gate of Yeu Xi, he lifted the curtain to look around, surprised said,

"The girls in this city are very beautiful, splendid dresses style, and much better than our Xi-Rei."

"Crown Prince, if these words heard by Chiu Yue's group, they certainly be resentful." Lie-er glanced outside then immediately returned to the book.

Feng Ming's tongue stuck out.

It was a long time later, Lie-er slowly said, "Female are Fan Jia, male are Xi-Rei, the top attractiveness of the eleven countries. An Xun married the Third Princess, thus the most blessed."

"Oh, how do you know about An Xun?"

Lie-er without panic, calmly said, "The Duke of Xi-Rei become Fan Jia Prince Consort, of course was a great event, even servants knew this."

Lie-er temperaments changeable, the form before Feng Ming right now compared with a pitiful servant before absolutely have no similarity at all. Feng Ming thought, *'when he was with Yong Yin King, probably seemed to be a loving pet, but he saw that I had no slightest interest in those temptation games, he behaved as wise and thoughtful person. It was truly respectful that one finds a beauty in front of them without being enchanted.'*

Soon after, the convoy arrived before the palace.

Tong general and Xia Guan helped Feng Ming off the carriage, but they stood at the front gate for more than half an hour, but no one stepped outside to greet them.

Tong general frowned said, "It couldn't be that Fan Jia King did not know that we have arrived?"

Xia Guan shook his head, "Before entered into the city, I have sent a written notice."

"Hn!" Tong general flung his hand and grasped for the sword handle, eyebrows up, "This is ridiculous, the Crown Prince travelled far to get here, why they treated us this coldly." His voice resounded; every word emitted echoing very far.

Suddenly another voice reencountered, "Fan Jia Prince Consort because of Xi-Rei King's illness travelled great distance to give him medicine, and how had he been treated?"

Everyone surprised and raised their head, then saw the gate slowly opens. A man clad in white before them and behind him, there at least more than thousands of soldiers correctly lining up, marched toward them, they finally surrounded Xi-Rei group which mere few hundreds, their arms lifted with murderous intention.

Almost like with one command they would immediately piled them up and minced Feng Ming.

Feng Ming glanced and his heart was a little frightened, complained why Tong general leaving the thousands of soldiers to camp outside the city. If Fan Jia King not allowed the soldiers to approach the city then the embassy should not enter either. He gripped the handle of "Unparallel" sword at his side; he turned and glanced at Tong general who also alerts and staring toward the enemy. Xia Guan noticed the fears on Feng Ming, whispered, "Crown Prince, at this moment, absolutely should not disclosed being weak, if not your life will be in danger. That man dressed in white must be the husband of Fan Jia First Princess, Royal Consort Gui Sen, who hope to get the throne. "

'That is correct, absolutely shall shows no weakness.'

He remembered the drama operas he seen; when it comes to battle those who shown weakness will be killed very badly.

Feng Ming tried hard reviewing what Duke Rong taught him, coolly and clear voice replied, "Duke Uncle An Xun at Xi-Rei murdered by assassins, Father King also lost his life, An He's heart greatly mourned. Could not able to forget the losses, then thoughts of the Duchess Aunt lived in Fan Jia alone and helpless without anyone to lean on. I am the Crown Prince of Xi-Rei, travelled here by myself, firstly hope that our two countries discussed how to deal in crackdown of the assassins, second to welcome the Duchess Aunt from Fan Jia and returned home to take care till old age." Since he practiced speaking a few times, the words uttered was fluently smooth and powerful, certainly presented the style of a prince.

Gui Sen stared coldly at Feng Ming. Until Feng Ming thought he out of breath.

Gui Sen slowly said, "As commanded by Fan Jia King: Xi-Rei Crown Prince travelled a great distance here, since I am not in good health, could not afford to be there to welcome in person, ordered Gui Sen Royal Prince Consort who arranged the welcome reception."

Feng Ming relieved exhale; fortunately, that Fan Jia King had not ordered to kill them right away. He thought, ultimately a representative on behalf of Xi-Rei Kingdom could not allow Duke Rong to lose face, stood tall, clasped his hands ritual said, "If so, then I shall have to bother Royal Prince Consort."

"An He Crown Prince, Gui Sen have a recommendation, although An Xun, son-in-law of Fan Jia King. Nevertheless, the Third Princess status in this land is the Third Princess of Fan Jia, please do not called her as Duchess Aunt."

Feng Ming was about to consent, but his sleeve gently pulled by Xia Guan. He was smart quickly picked on that, immediately understood, *'if everything was agreeable, of course would shows that Xi-Rei not confident, their life would be more endanger.'*

Therefore, he calmly laughed, "I thanking yours kindly advised. However, An Xun was An He Uncle, Duke of Xi-Rei, I addressed the Third Princess as Duchess Aunt, Her Grace, to express

my respect. Of course, the reason for An He here was welcome Her Grace to Xi-Rei's Royal Family so still best to call Duchess Aunt."

Gui Sen saw Feng Ming great momentum, carefully observed and evaluated, he quietly thought how strange, *'rumour had that Xi-Rei Crown Prince was worthless, the kind that only worth of food and clothes, today to see him, it seems rumours was incorrect.'* He attention shifted to Feng Ming seems extraordinary distinguished; also, elegance with erotic essence, the eyes slightly glowed.

"In that case let forget it, I said too much. Gui Sen has been arranged an appropriate place, please followed me." When he finished and waved his hand, instantly someone brought a stallion forward.

The horse was snow white; it might seem that none could compare to it but White Cloud of Duke Rong easily rival this horse.

Feng Ming's eyes stared with envy. Until Xia Guan aside whispered, "Crown Prince, please go up in the carriage, we need to go to the camp."

"Yeah ..." Feng Ming sadly turned to look at Gui Sen sturdily riding on horseback once more, then climb back the carriage, bitten his teeth said, "I certainly will search for a best stallion, Hn, I want to ride a horse ... "

When everyone arrived at the camp site, after resettlement satisfied, Gui Sen stood up to leave.

"Early tomorrow, I will come to pick An He Crown Prince for your appointment with the Third Princess."

"Yes, thank you Royal Prince Consort."

When he finally peaceful sat down, Feng Ming shouted hooray "long live" instantly.

Lie-er said, "Please do not excited too soon, tomorrow morning we shall have an audience with the Third Princess that is the most critical part. If Third Princess refused be friendly with Xi-Rei, there still a possibility chance Fan Jia King will not simply let his army returned us back to Xi-Rei quickly."

Feng Ming received a short lecture, instantly limply stood up, Chiu Lian solaced, "Crown Prince should not be too worries, the Third Princess will definitely listened to your counsels. Your Royal Highness Crown Prince is the most powerful distinguished and prestige, just today in front of the palace, in danger you did not displayed distress and disorder but demonstrated Xi-Rei might, any woman who saw Your Highness would not find her heart softened . Third Princess's compassion would never allow Crown Prince to be in danger. "

Feng Ming laughed sorrowful, said, "Chiu Lian, she is Xi-Rei Duchess, my Royal Aunty, how possible for me to use beauty/honey strategy?"

Everyone chuckled loudly.

Chiu Xing covered her mouth said, "Enough, it already late for today, Your Highness need to rest a bit early, if not, waked up early tomorrow with dark circled around your eyes surely jeopardised the mission."

Immediately everyone dispersed.

Xia Guan worried Feng Ming might be too nervous so he gave him a dose of sedative during the meal which helped the prince calmly asleep. Feng Ming dreamless slept peacefully throughout the night.

The next day he waken up feels good, he thought it was a little weird but considered, *'perhaps I'd a strong psychological, since I do not fear death at all, thus when faced the danger it does not affect my sleep pattern.'* He did not stop praised himself so his confidence quadrupled.

During breakfast time, Gui Sen arrived.

Tong general welcomed Gui Sen inside. Today he dressed fully blue, from head to toe was

impeccable combination, of course must undergone a great due of effort, when he saw Feng Ming, smiled and clasped his hands, "Third Princess is at her mansion, she waited for the prince to come, we should depart immediately."

Feng Ming saw his smiling face, his heart a little stunned and thought, *'The Royal Princes' Consort are all very handsome men in this era, may be the Second Prince Consort also a very handsome man.*

Chapter VII

Under the guidance of Gui Sen, the group travelled south about half an hour before they arrived at the third princess's mansion.

The third princess obviously pampered by Fan Jia King, her mansion appearance was not less impressive than an Imperial Palace. In front gate, a pair of large lions carved from white jade, and dozens of soldiers dazzling stood guard at the gate.

Feng Ming got off the carriage, his head slightly turned to view the structure of the palace, instantly his heart feeling something weird, it was not normal but he does not know.

Gui Sen started his introduction, "An He Crown Prince, this is the mansion of Third Princess. The King loved Her Highness, she selected the site and personally oversaw the construction. It built around a lake and against a mountain, the pavilions of the mansion constructed according to air circulation, highlight the strength of nature, it truly admiration. Third Princess is the unsurpassed women of Fan Jia, unfortunately An Xun Prince Consort's early death, leaved one of the great beautiful women drifted alone in this world." After spoken forever energized and with high voice improvisation a poem in clear melodic voice.

Feng Ming unfortunately knew little about architecture, all the verses cited by Gui Sen could not understood a word, although he remembered Duke Rong advised, even if you heard and do not know must pretended that you do. Feng Ming kept nodded, innocent smiled and fool applauded but thought, *'Fan Jia King loved the Third Princess, why are you so happy? If possible he would have given the kingdom over to the Prince Consort of Third Princess, who died, and then you just waited there and cried.'*

When everyone went out of the carriage, Gui Sen adjusted clothing, and led Feng Ming proudly walked toward the door.

However, when they arrived in front of the gate, the guards at the door blocked their way.

"First Prince Consort please halt, Third Princess ordered, today she have a very important guest surprisingly visited. Third Princess could not find the time to take care on other things, pleaded

Royal Prince Consort on behalf of Her Highness hospitality An He Crown Prince for today, she will make another appointment later."

Gui Sen stunned, "I advised accordingly to Third Princess wishes yesterday that today is the appointment day, Xi-Rei Crown Prince arrived at the door. How can she change like that?"

The praetorian seemed awkward, salute replied, "Pleaded First Prince Consort not angry, the important guest arrived, and Third Princess could not able to do anything else but see them at once."

A strange dream of sort when the door closed on them, Feng Ming and the whole crowd looked at each other in bewilderment, Tong general infuriated and coldly said, "Third Princess entertained important guests, so our Xi-Rei Crown Prince travelled thousands of miles, is nothing but an ordinary guest?"

Lie-er also comes along with the guards started giggling, acted bizarre said, "Tong General, why should you be angry, it is okay, of course we have the First Royal Prince Consort received us which is a good arrangement."

The speech mocked Gui Sen who exclusively only entertained the proportion of people without power.

The three consorts of Fan Jia hoped to win the throne, so from beginning their relationships was a cold war, only kept friendliness as a facade.

An Xun died, leaving the third princess as a widow. Gui Sen intended to inherit Fan Jia Kingdom. When he heard Lie-er, the old grudges immediately swiftly returned. He thinks the Third Princess deliberately played game to humiliate him in front of everyone. His anger flared; coldly smile, gritted teeth said, "Ha ha, since the ancient time the first one having an appointment would be the first to see. Who are these honour guests, so important that the Third Princess reneged with An He Crown Prince? Gui Sen wants opened his eyes and see." He paused and shouted, "Get out." Then burst straight into the mansion.

The guard knew since An Xun died, it was impossible for the third princess to become queen, the throne would give to the remaining Royal Consorts. Therefore, not appropriate to displease Gui Sen who could attain the throne and become the new king, so hesitate for a moment before moved out of the way.

Feng Ming saw with his own eyes, silently shook his head, sighed, *'to be a woman in this era was pitiful, when her husband died she easily get bullied, even the guards not able to block intruder, not even her father's love is enough? Although this is good opportunity, Third Princess and Gui Sen bitterly quarrel made it more easily persuaded her return to Xi-Rei.'*

The party entered the princess mansion after Gui Sen, hurried stepping through a garden of Ochna Integerrima blooming.

Lie-er quickly followed behind Feng Ming, whispered, "The person visited Third Princess is Li King Ruo Yan, he ascended the throne about two years, but put Li Kingdom under control orderly, an extremely incredible powerful person. There is a recent news that Li Queen died, it seems he quietly come here to visit Third Princess, probably intend to propose marriage."

Feng Ming lower his voice asked, "How do you know exactly, it was Ruo Yan?"

"The carriages parked outside the Third Princess' mansion, on each shaft carved with a small realm mark, it does not look visible."

Feng Ming stuck out his tongue; he had simply not care and pay attention to the carriages that they stopped along side. He glanced at a very angry Gui Sen who led the way, turned to Lie-er said, "If we continue stormed inside, does that mean we will face Li King?"

Lie-er looked very please and triumph said, "Gui Sen deserved it."

"Lie-er, has Gui Sen offended you, why have you done that?"

"Crown Prince, you don't see the way he looked, as if want to eat you alive."

Feng Ming puzzled frown, "You must be confused? I have not seen anything. "

"Hmm, those kinds of men eyes, your servants had seen a lot, like hunting dog saw bait."

Feng Ming shuddered, instantly remind him to be more vigilant.

They walked for a while then entered a very elegant courtyard and around the garden white, black and red blossoms intertwined, colourful brilliant, a gentle fragrance of the flowers filled the air. The water sounds were dripping, gently mellow but not sure where it was echoing.

This place definitely the third princess' courtyard lived. Gui Sen arrived here was less tempestuous as before, his stepped lightly once again. Everyone thoughts once again focused on the success of mission which depended on this meeting with Third Princess; inevitably, their faces were become serious.

The atmosphere was very calm, finely embroidered phoenix on the thick heavy curtains across the single aisle suddenly pulled up. A maidservant in blue robe came out. This girl has beautiful eyes like mercury; the eyes flitted around and collected everything inside. She smiled gently, stepped forward, and saluted Gui Sen, "Greeting First Royal Prince Consort. Third Princess currently received important guests from afar. Plead First Royal Prince Consort and An He Crown Prince to the next room and waits for a bit."

Gui Sen knew this woman Fen Yan well, the Third Princess' personal servant, crafty, very quick wit, of course she knew they would broke in, accorded to Third Princess' command and wait outside the lobby to forestall them. He did not want to play any more games and smiled, "Oh? How could you possible let An He Crown Prince waiting, so who are these honour guests, made Third Princess to prejudice against her prior appointment? "

Fen Yan revealed two small dimples and replied, "I don't know, but there are two outrageous guys, when they entered the room, instantly sprayed sand on the floor. Nevertheless, Third Princess said they are honour guests, so they must be honour guests."

Feng Minh and Lie-er eyes met, both thoughts this woman shrewd, spoken very sharp and clear, knew the guests were important should not displeased, yet allowed Gui Sen to set out for verbal slapped.

Gui Sen of course misled, snorted, "In that case, I'll see these unusual people." He swung his arms and moved forward.



Red Blossom

Note: I have never see black blossom before, must be the branches colour like above illustration or it use for poetic language expression.

Chapter VIII

Gui Sen threw the curtain open and strode into the room.

Feng Ming followed soon after; he was about steps inside, suddenly turned and saw the maidservant smiling face, at if she waited for a play opening, stood still instantly.

Fen Yan had thoughts that Feng Ming will step inside, unexpected Feng Ming turned to see her smiling face. Therefore, leaved Gui Sen alone broken in and ran into the room. In that instant, Feng Ming led his group to move back down the steps. They station at the centre of the garden, Feng Ming turned towards the door and in his deep voice offered salute, mildly sound, in clear voice, "An He Crown Prince Xi-Rei, have come to visit Duchess Aunt, led the embassy of Xi-Rei, Tong Jian Ming, Xia Guan, waited outside. "

Those two sentences uttered occupying the atmosphere, was rightly norm and rightly outlined, in such situation.

Fen Yan shows surprised, eyes blinks, quietly walked into the room by the servant's entrance.

There was no response from the silent room and then a voice, "Eh" echoed, seems to be out of Gui Sen's mouth, he must be extremely shocked when confront Li King Ruo Yan, known as an extraordinary formidable person, and after that sounds of furniture fallen on the ground echoed.

Lie-er face beamed, tried guessing what was going on inside that room.

Only moments later, Gui Sen palely face opened the curtain, his eyes filled indignation, but doing his best to suppress it. He saw Feng Ming waiting outside, silent and hurried away.

Xia Guan saw what happen said, "It seems the guest inside is Li King."

Feng Ming nodded agreeing and asked, "How did you know?"

"The Third Princess known throughout the kingdoms for her mathematics, what more she extremely passionate with this subject. Therefore, a guest that could make Her Highness who in mourning to be enrapture, most likely the mathematics professor, Dong Fang Tian of Li Kingdom."

"Why you said the guest is Li King?"

"Don't forget Your Highness, there are two visitors, if one visitor is Dong Fang Tian who the Third Princess regarded as honour guests, so the other visitor, who able to scare away the First Prince Consort could only be Li King Ruo Yan."

"If that is the case, Ruo Yan planned to rely on Dong Fang Tian to seize the Third Princess'

sentiment then attempted to propose marriage. He will bring her back to Li Kingdom as the new Queen."

Xia Guan shock and admiration said, "The Crown Prince is amazing, just a glance could penetrate the veil of mystery, Xia Guan has the same idea."

Feng Ming laughed, turned to Lie-er feeling gratify and continue, "This is even better, we don't need to welcome the Third Princess back, let they marry, wishes them a very happy marriage, a very long life together."

Xia Guan shook his head, sternly said, "This must not happened. Ruo Yan has a great ambition, he want to be ruler of all. If he marries Third Princess, very likely, he encouraged Fan Jia King to advance attack on Xi-Rei for An Xun's death, in order with one stone hit two birds. "

"We have to ..." Feng Ming turned hesitate to ask.

Xia Guan face to face, stared at Feng Ming for a long time, bitten his teeth gently said, "Break it."

"Break?" he was unsure, currently they stood on the land of Fan Jia, thinking of break the Third Princess chance of second marriage and the opponent was none other than Li King Ruo Yan who known and proclaims by every kingdoms for his formidable persona. Feng Ming gently touched his neck, to see how hard it is, "Do we really need to destroy it?"

Xia Guan's eyes unblinking looked into Feng Ming, nodded vigorously, "Yes, for Xi-Rei, cannot allow this marriage to take place."

Feng Ming's eyes blinked, nodded quietly, "OK, I shall break it." He felt frustrated and would screeched crying.

After concluded the conversations, they continued to wait for the answer from the third princess.

They stood out in open space, almost numbing cold. Feng Ming shouted again, "An He waiting outside, pleaded Duchess Aunt for a meeting."

The time they continued to wait about half of burnt incense, when a soft female voice asked, "If you go straight in then you would see me, what is the reason that you had been stood outside for so long?"

Feng Ming stood in the cold wind, had already began internally verbal abused the third princess egotistical, about eighteen or seventeen consecutive times. The little sympathy for her flight had become naught, but when he heard the replied, he still formally wishes for her long live, respectfully replied, "Your Grace was my elder, An He would not dares entering so disrespectful."

The room resonance laughter, echoed like silver bell sound, then silent again.

Everyone once again looked at each other in bewilderment, the curtain suddenly pulled up, Fen Yan and several maidservants dressed in pink appeared.

Fen Yan walked down the steps; her black eyes subtle intently observed Feng Ming for a moment, and then slowly saluted, "Third Princess invited An He Crown Prince to come inside. Her Highness said the room is small which inconvenient. She invited the others to use the room next door and have a little meal. "

Feng Ming did not expected that he would be alone to break up this covenant marriage, turned look pitiful at Xia Guan and Tong general, though everyone agreed that it was lucky that the third princess accepted to see Feng Ming, together with one heart and mind, sent him off with encouragement gazes.

His eyes watched the group led away by maidservants in pink robes to the next room. Feng Ming sighed heavily in resentment as if he alone facing the heaven forces. His thought drifted to third princess, who husband murdered in Xi-Rei and Li King who was extremely fearsome. Feng Ming worried to the point that his feet sweating. Fen Yan lifted the curtain to one side, smiling said, "Crown Prince, the winter weather is not good, please hurried coming inside."

There nothing else he could do, so regardless of everything, he shuffled inside the room.

Chapter IX

There nothing else he could do, so regardless of everything, he shuffled inside the room.

When he entered inside the quarter, sweet fragrance incense gently contacted him, it floated on air as if he had set foot to the place of deities, the running water heard before was sound clearer inside the room. There were three figures sat on the mat beside the window. A woman sat in the middle, her garment was reddish purple, and the sleeves had several thread fibre fringes, her face features like a peach and eyes painted.

When Feng Ming saw the female, he knew she was the third princess, her appearance of course beautiful. However, he watched a lot of TV thus saw many beautiful women around the world, so to see a rare beauty like this in era, only slightly nodded, whispered compliments inside which did not showed slightest embarrassment.

Fen Yan and the other servants stood silently aside and observed, they thought it was strange; they could not believe that Crown Prince of Xi-Rei was calm like that. The other two guests, was not out of the Xia Guan expectation, it was indeed Li King Ruo Yan and mathematics professor Dong Fang Tian. The three people were sitting around a sand box; Dong Fang Tian was a gray beardy old man, large nose, smooth surface but strangely shape. The old man was unlike

anything Feng Ming could ever imagined for a pioneer professor of that era, the old man hold a long thin bamboo stick in his hand, drawn and scratched on the sand box, explained quietly. Third princess listened attentively with enrapture, constantly nodding.

Ruo Yan estimated about twenty seven or twenty eight years old, his appearance was normal, wore a sword by the side which not noticeable either. If Xia Guan and Lie-er had not always kept reminding him, he would never see how this man could be a very dangerous person.

Feng Ming looked at atmosphere in which exchange of knowledge reconciliation, he guessed in this moment if he only uttering a sentence will be instantly kicked outside to enjoy the northwest wind, wisely chosen a seat a bit far away, play the role of a respectfully younger generation.

Dong Fang Tian sounds was gentle, his words full of lofty terminology. Feng Ming did not understand half of what he heard, while waiting there sadly for at least half an hour, silently groaned inwardly. If he knew this going to happen he would just greet the third princess when he first step inside, why did he insisted not to ruin this romantic atmosphere, so now he was not sure how long he would he had to wait. These ancient people, did they know time is money, should appreciated other people's times, the first issue that need to be handling was the relationship between Xi-Rei and Fan Jia then return to the frivolous mathematic. It was difficult but at last, Dong Fang Tian finally stopped.

Feng Ming saw the old man had shut his mouth after constantly talking, taken a deep breath and sighed, ready prepared to greet the third princess. Nonetheless, she turned to Dong Fang Tian

humbly said, "Dong Fang Tian professor, this tool of course is useful, but the process was too complicated, if we want the people to use will taken a lot of effort to educate them."

Dong Fang Tian said, "Your Highness said correctly. This old man studied more than ten kinds of tools for calculation, some are bad and others are good, simple would loss of precision, accuracy is too complex. However, mathematics calculation of Li Kingdom currently the best way, the people who have slightly mathematic ability, will take no more than one or two months to use it effectively."

Feng Ming heard them ready into another discussion, could not help but cried out sadly.

Ruo Yan started paying attention to Feng Ming when he entering the room, the cried out of course caught by his ear as he glanced at Feng Ming. A smirk appeared on his mouth was truly arrogant, suddenly said, "I heard Xi-Rei's Duke Rong have capacity for calculation which amazed many people. An He Crown Prince certainly must have seen them, so would Crown Prince please comment on this new computing tool of Dong Fang Tian professor?" When he asked, immediately everyone attention flocked over to Feng Ming. The eyes simultaneously focused on Feng Ming, which scared him as he sat up straight.

Feng Ming of course have no idea about those kind of calculation methods, a moment of panic, then decided dismiss the problem, since the third princess finally pay attention to him, he rushed towards her direction with the best posture smiling, stood up and saluted her.

"An He paying respect to Duchess Aunt."

Third princess replied gently, "Crown Prince please stand up, Your Highness travelled far to get here, must be tough for you."

He never thought when the princess saw him for the first time did not immediately mention about the death of An Xun. Feng Ming stunned, take a seat, looked into the third princess eyes said, "Duchess Aunt, An He comes here, because I want to welcome Your Grace back to Xi-Rei. An He, of course will treated Your Grace as his own mother, please consent."

"An Xun for Xi-Rei's throne took the step to go there, Father King for the sake of the Kingdom have sent troop, Crown Prince for Xi-Rei security travelled many miles to come here, to welcome a Duchess Aunt that he never once met. The world labour truly troublesome, why suffering for such thinking, ultimately for what?"

Third princess turned, casting her eyes gently over the sand box, as if the grains of sand were hidden a deep conviction of her heart, her red lips whispered, "If it was for wealth and power that everyone battling each other, a wasted effort, would it not better to spend here with the calculation methods of infinite variables. Crown Prince, am I right? "

Feng Ming stood blankly for long time. He never thought the third princess was a fanatic for calculation, opened his mouth but could not form a sentence. Ruo Yan was first to speak, sighed

said, "Third Princess indeed wise, Ruo Yan felt ashamed. Ruo Yan for a long time heard of Your Highness intellectual, take liberty of seeking for your hand, courtesy of a Queen. After Princess arrived at Li Kingdom, your status would be precious that no one dare to harass, thus day and night could dedicated to study computational methods, also with Dong Fang Tian professor to discuss the universal computation skills, I would of course devoted with you day and night, wouldn't that be paradise on earth? "

Dong Fang Tian instantly added, "That would be very good, this old man and Your Highness could able analysis conferring mathematics, really nothing could equal it." The sentence was apparently touched the princess's heart, her eyes moved softly, gently passed on to Ruo Yan, and then quietly casting down on the sand box. Feng Ming secretly thought it was not good, during the trip to Fan Jia, Xia Guan predicted numerous events arisen, which also calculate how to solve them, only with the scenario of Ruo Yan asked for marriage was not include, Feng Ming have no idea how to cope with Ruo Yan.

However, he must break this marriage proposal. Feng Ming's mind was muddles, saw the third princess swayed, said loudly, "No! No! "

The loud shout immediately pulled everyone attention back to him.

Ruo Yan laughed ridicule, slightly turned to where Feng Ming, the eyes light suddenly flared up, the glance made Feng Ming felt likes he was a small animal caught in a tiger sight, the whole

body suddenly coldly sweat. No wonder why everyone said Ruo Yan was very formidable person, of course his fame was accurate.

Ruo Yan's sharp eyes quickly gone, smiled and asked, "An He Crown Prince said the Third Princess should not be marrying to me?"

Feng Ming's back covered cold sweats, at this time he could only demonstrated gutty respond, "I was indeed had said so, Duchess Aunt enthusiastic for mathematic calculations, better should travel with An He to Xi-Rei. Xi-Rei methods of calculation distinguished over the kingdoms, the computational tools improved; compared with Li Kingdom it should be more suitable for Her Grace." He so stresses and he did not know that the computation in the Xi-Rei absolutely had no reputation, just boast outrageously.

Dong Fang Tian immediately let out a mocking laughed, eyes turned away. The third princess looked at Feng Ming, her loved for computation was immensely, thus really hate those who used mathematics calculation as casual nonsense chat, face cheerless, "An He Crown Prince please take note on the words, everyone knew, today's computing technology, Dong Fang Tian professor is the best and Li Kingdom is the greatest. Please do not beguile me so that I would go to Xi-Rei, why coax me with a false statement? "

Feng Ming blushed. Ruo Yan saw Feng Ming embarrassed, revealing pink colour on the white transparent skin, highlight his beauty long eyelashes and pretty eyebrows, and dedicate eyes,

black pupils like a tiger, which gave a subtle radiance of oddly erotic sight, instantly the heart especially beating faster.

Ruo Yan unable to relax inside but refuse to give up, drily coughed, staring at Feng Ming said, "Since Prince said this, then Your Highness should perform a little mathematic to show us what the most recent method of Xi-Rei?"

His speech was sarcasm, in front of Dong Fang Tian professor, any performance shows of improvement how math done is just a joke.

Feng Ming looked at the carpet, was like a cat on hot bricks, firstly raided for any modern knowledge that he could use to address this tribulation. Computation tools were not big problems. The problem is the computer, which calculates was a calculator, but in this era, where could he find a calculator? Fen Yan impression of Feng Ming was not bad, saw that he flounder, saluted and knelt beside the third princess, whispered, "Third Princess, Dong Fang Tian professor is here, An He Crown Prince must frighten, please let the prince to demonstrate it on another day. "

Third Princess saw Feng Ming's forehead sweating, felt he learnt a lesson, just about nodded, suddenly heard a wild arrogant laughter, suddenly turned back again, saw that Feng Ming had leaped up, face seems excited and screamed, "Eureka!"

Everyone was very surprised.

Feng Ming ignored everyone reaction, went before the third princess said, "The best computational tools, I have remembered it." His smiles on his face suddenly gone, carefully reach out, "The presentation is not difficult, but I need to borrow something from Your Grace."

"Oh? What is it? "

"Fifty pearls pierced in its centre; ten golden thread; and two wooden bars."

"Hardboard?"

"Why do I need hardboard? I have no need for them. "

In this era computerized tools while ever changing, but invariably they all use of the same wood. When they heard Feng Ming said he did not need the hardboard, they found it was bizarre. Third Princess' curious, hurriedly sent the servants to provide pearls, and gives them to Feng Ming.

Feng Ming brought the pearls, gold threads, and the small wood on the ground. He clasped them and pieced everything together, a moment later completed, merrily head up and said, "This is the one! The first computational tools of the ancient era, it was indeed greatly admired by foreigner at that time."

It seems that the tool he made turn out to be a simple abacus.

Third princess looked down, surprised said, "How could this tool to be used to calculate?"

Ruo Yan tilted his head to look over, but his eyes strayed back silently to Feng Ming's red berry lips, sneered, "Small outcome, ridiculous."

"Great King, please wait." Dong Fang Tian was indeed a master, when he seen a simplicity abacus of Feng Ming, his eyes suddenly lit up, his head bowed thoughtfully, turned to Feng Ming said, "Although this instrument look simple, but it implied a multitude mystical magic of mathematics, truly virtual magic, plead An He Crown Prince explain a little bit." His respectfulness compared with the initial contempt tone, gap was extremely difference.

Feng Ming internally laughed hard felt like fall off the chair, over a thousand years history of mathematics in China, mathematics experts had always agreed on abacus, thus how could these ancient people would not be shock. He cleared his throat softly, revealing an enchanting smile with the third princess, "Your Highness please gives a topic."

"What topic?"

"It is the plus or the minus, like 188 and 397, how much is that?" Feng Ming elated about it.

Very quickly, he found the atmosphere in the room a bit unusual. Princess Tam looked at him oddly, "that type of calculations is simple, why do we need a calculator?"

"What?"

Feng Ming surrounded by strangely gazed began to scare and threaten. Maybe he underestimated the calculation ability of these ancient people. Perhaps, did he define for calculation tool wrong? If not, without the abacus what else could be use?

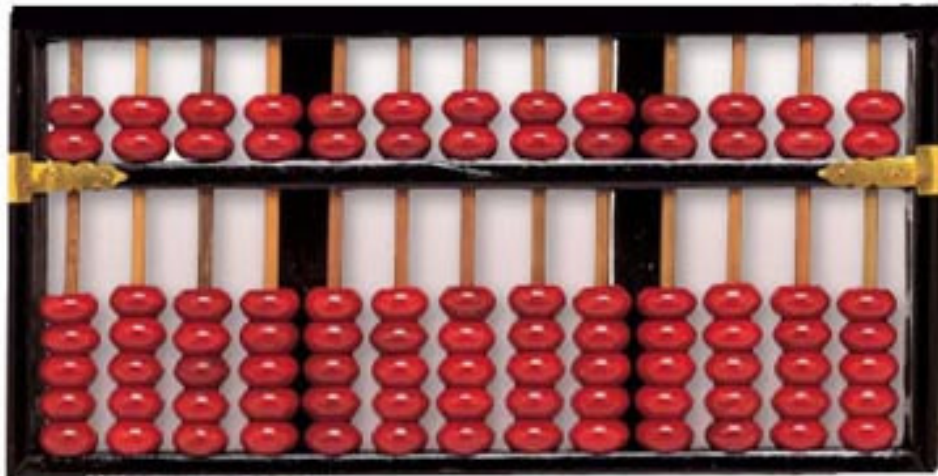
Immediately, cold sweat poured out again.

The pressure around him suddenly even more severe, the third princess face sharply dismissed, Ruo Yan coldly laughed watching the drama unfold, Dong Fang Tian kept waiting for Feng Ming performed. Since he had already, bragging to say otherwise would be very shameful.

Feng Ming rubbed his forehead, biting teeth, blatantly said, "If so... plead Third Princess ... to think a mathematic topic that could I perform calculation, this should be OK. This abacus although is simple at first glance, but whatever in heaven and on earth it could able be used to calculate." In his thought, if she gives a difficult one, I would have to say that Duke Rong used this abacus to find a solution, and deceived her to come to Xi-Rei. Third princess saw Feng Ming positive affirmation, suspicious and nodded, "OK, so let me give you a topic."

Immediately, everyone focused on her lips, particular Feng Ming, nervously without blinking. He did not notice there still a sharply gazed on him, sometimes hovered over his face, a fine optical beam ablaze.

"The topic I give was..."



Abacus

繁芝

繁佳國的三公主，最受繁佳王喜愛，姿色出眾，王族美人，可惜命運坎坷。暗中與博臨王的私生子博陵相戀，迫於壓力嫁給安巡，只能在演算學術中排解苦悶。

後來，安巡和繁佳王相繼死於非命，失去老公和父王的三公主走上了一條更崎嶇的道路……



Third Princess, Fan Zhi

若言

年輕的離國大王，有著一張男人味很足的臉，深邃瞳孔總含著犀利光芒，身上散發著王者的野心和殘忍霸氣，常常給人留下不寒而慄的可怕印象。

若言精明無情，思考的時候像個精準的機器，在他的字典裡沒有猶豫或為難的字眼，性格剛硬冷酷的他，隨時可以拋棄對他無用的人和物，而不給予一點憐惜。

自從遇見學識和性格都獨一無二的鳳鳴後，他就發誓要不惜一切代價，讓鳳鳴屬於自己。

Chapter X

"The topic I give was..." Third Princess said halfway paused, smiling, and the intelligent eyes were lightens up like stirring waters under sunlight, at that moment, she looked very attractive. No wonder she world known for her beauties, her smile almost dazed Feng Ming and thought, *'such a beauty, she become a widow because her husband killed by Duke Rong's hand, if I was to break her second romance now, really is too pitiful.'* Think of that, he was sudden turned over to look at Li King Ruo Yan.

It would be better if he did not, right away he met the sharply gazed, in Feng Ming's life, he had never seen such a sharply eyes, made him think the eyes generated electricity.

Duke Rong's eyes also have electricity, but only made others contacted him felt numbs, almost like the carelessly touched a switch that was open. However, Li King Ruo Yan's eyes like lightning bolt from the sky, the eyes only briefly flashed but those strongly desired of possessiveness carved deep inside Feng Ming, making him instantly coldly sweat.

Never knew he met a male just by gazed of the eyes would made him trembling fearful like this.

Ruo Yan saw Feng Ming turned; his glowed eyes immediately went out, nodded quietly toward Feng Ming. Feng Ming's hairs stood up, sneakily slipping his eyes away.

"Crown Prince?" tried to calm the mind to deal with Third Princess topic, but received another shock of the lightning flashed eyes which passed over him. Suddenly, someone his side slightly pulled Feng Ming's sleeve, he turned around, saw it was Fen Yan.

"Crown Prince?"

"Yeah?"

Fen Yan's smile said, "An He Crow Prince, the Third Princess already give out the topic."

"Ah? Is that so?" Feng Ming hastily wiped his forehead with his sleeve. He could finally able to avoided Ruo Yan's eyes as he moved to the third princess. She saw Feng Ming's face was very pale, frowning said, "Your Highness looked shock?" Mused for a moment, said, "The topic I give, currently no one have able to solve, if Your Highness could not, this is normal."

"No, nothing ... it was a little cold." Feng Ming answered, focused at his surround; the third princess used the stick to draw a circle. It seems she must study a lot of this shape, her simple drawing, compared of using a compass was not much different.

Everyone's eyes focused on her circle, without much thought, they knew this was the topic given.

Feng Ming frowned, "Circle?" In his consideration, *'what does she ask: the circle perimeter? Or*

is it area of circle?' He regretted of being shocked that he had not heard the topic, so in the end, closing his hands said "Forgive me Your Grace, An He was not clearly heard the topic could Duchess Aunt, please repeated it again?"

Third princess looked astonish at Feng Ming, asked, "If Your Highness has been work on mathematics' problems, so with this currently problem how could you do not know?" This was not good; it appeared that this circle problem was currently the most famous contemporary mathematics. It was popular that by just draw a picture that only everyone would know what it is.

Fortunately for Fen Yan good heart, gentle from behind explained, "The Third Princess asking the Crown Prince to calculate the average amount of sands could fit inside the shape?"

It seemed the ultimately numerical have been prosperity in modern era, Feng Ming thought about the questions for few times, awakened and suddenly realized, the topic asked for the volume of required circle. *'Ha ha, could it be that easy?'* Feng Ming whole body tensed up finally gradually relaxed, he could not control his laughing, casually responded, "This is simple, spherical volume can be calculated using the formula, just need to know what radius is, the formula is $\frac{4}{3} r^3 \pi$. "

Everyone stunned at his at ease responded. Third Princess traumatic asked, "Crown Prince had said a few things that I do not understood, what is π , what is r ? What is $\frac{4}{3}$? What is the cube? "

"That simple, Your Highness please has a look." Feng Ming took the rod, stood and put down the formula in writing, from the mid-radius circle drawn, patiently explained, "From the centre of circle to the outer edge, we called it as R, π is an amount equivalent to 3.14159. Cube is the product of three times that number, four thirds is four times that of a third block..." It was very luckily in the early days, his class teacher had dwell them into his head, made him wrote the formula at least twenty times, thus he able to explain with intimately detailed all the questions that the princess had asked about the formula, just like a professor presentation.

Fen Yan and the crowd for the first time expanded their knowledge; they all stared at the drawings he outlines in the sand box. Dong Fang Tian's eyes were widens, heard these words that sent the silver whiskers on him shaking. Scientists in any era, regardless of any result the most focuses always on practical aspect, when Feng Ming explained, the old man was immediately sent his servant to brings the right tools over to measure, started experimental to see if Feng Ming's formula was correct or not.

Method of measurement was really simple, filling sand in the spear, after that let sand falling down; each particle was count as they fallen into a small wooden box, and thus able to calculate the number of grains of sand.

After consecutive experiments on several vary size spheres, Feng Ming's formula used to calculate the result was not much difference from the experiments. At this point, the Third Princess and Dong Fang Tian appearances can only be described as shocked. They both are great

teachers immersive into mathematics for years, finally saw the problem of world answer, immediately seen the heaven door opened suddenly to the human world, was greatly moved.

Dong Fang Tian almost unable to articulate anymore, teary said, "Third Princess this ... this result is not wrong." Third Princess looked stunned at Feng Ming's written formulas, her face blushed, almost like seeing their soul mate appeared, suddenly raised her head to look at Fen Yan said, "Quickly, go get a pen, take these notes carefully." Fen Yan hastily obeyed.

She then turned and looked at Feng Ming, she said, "Crown Prince's calculations like a deity, I had been indifferent at the reception. This worldly problem, Fan Zhi was very lucky, to be able visually see the question that been for thousands of years resolved, do not know how to repay, plead Crown Prince received this bow." Immediately she knelt and kowtowed.

"Duchess Aunt please stands up; An He doesn't deserve this!" Feng Ming never thought she would be this excited, quickly changed colour, and raised the third princess to stand up. After he supported her, Dong Fang Tian also contributed his own jubilant, happy tears poured down, hurriedly said, "Dong Fang Tian had been disrespectful to Prince, felt ashamed, plead Your Highness for forgiveness." Then his silver head also prostrate on the ground.

Feng Ming embarrassed, just help a person up then another, mouth constantly said, "Professor please stand up, please everyone stand up." Ruo Yan watched coldly indifference at one side, did not speak. After the riot, the crowd sat back once again on the mats, around the sand box. Third princess excitement was not over, continued to questions, "This method is indeed best

calculation for the results, unparalleled enchantment. However, how do you use the tool called abacus to work out the result, could the Crown Prince explained a little bit more?"

"Yes, such a sophisticate tools which quickly calculate, if it could be revealed, this old man would die with no regret."

Feng Ming suddenly remembered his boasted that the tool in his chest could calculate anything under the sun and earth, immediately stunned. Although he memorized formulas, but he does not understand where the formula for the volume of a sphere was from, forgot nine out of ten, let alone how this tool calculate. The formula for the volume and the tool is not connecting with each other at all, which question to answer? Dong Fang Tian waited for answers with anxiety, he saw Feng Ming hesitation, contemplative for a moment, then realized, "Ah, so this is Xi-Rei calculation method, the Crown Prince could not convenient disclose with us."

'The frustration of the Third Princess manifested through her voice. However, this is not the time to upset her. The situation was very favourable progress; I should take advantage and made certain to complete the given task, to return Xi-Rei with the third princess. That Ruo Yan guy really scary, the third princess should be better off not wedded to him.' With this thought, Feng Ming sudden flashed with an idea. He bowed his head; suddenly smiles that enchanted others, stood up, slowly glanced at everyone in the room, when his eyes laid on Ruo Yan, instantly panic caused his heart beating disorderly, but on surface seemed not to care at all.

Finally, his gazed was stopping on the third princess, graceful palms closed, respectfully replied, "It is not because An He could not discussing Xi-Rei method of calculation to Your Grace, but

the formula had thought up by Duke Rong, An He was not really clear on them. Of course, once the Duchess Aunt arrived to Xi-Rei, Duke Rong will naturally be a more competent teacher and able to deeply discussed mathematics, also welcomes Dong Fang Tian professor to Xi-Rei. In the occasion a great teacher meet with another great teacher, mathematics knowledge of course would improve for thousands of miles, for blessing of the world." He turned toward the happy old man with a little joyful gift.

In the case of the volume formula Duke Rong will have to find a solution, let Duke Rong cleared this battleground later.

Third princess instantly lighten up. At this time, compared with Duke Rong who could address the world problems, with the offered of Ruo Yan indeed has lost its charm, hesitated look at Ruo Yan, she slightly bowed before replied Feng Ming, "Thanks Crown Prince, Duke Rong of Xi-Rei, Fan Zhi heard his fame for a long time, defiantly must meet at least once, to fulfil the goal." The words uttered, shown her heart desire, that journey to Xi-Rei was indeed concrete.

Ruo Yan understood, in terms of mathematics he could not able to challenge, so just look at the third princess smiled very gently, silent. Secretly stared Feng Ming from behind just likes an arrow tore through the wind. Feng Ming's eyes stolen a glance and observed if Ruo Yan made any commotion and caught his eyes. Instantly he felt like bait frog faced a poisonous snake, the whole body chilled, almost unable to move.

When the third princess finished speaking, he thought for initially task already half done, it

would be best quickly to get away from Li King, he turned quickly to the third princess palms closing, "I have troubled Duchess Aunt for a some time now, An He should be best to say goodbye for today."

When they heard him leaving, the third princess and Dong Fang Tian faces disappointed, they did not want him to go yet.

Third princess said, "Your Highness why are you leaving so quickly, please stay a little longer?"

"Yes, this old man has many mathematics problems, would like consult with Crown Prince."

Feng Ming received the attentive eyes of Ruo Yan from time to time, felt like he was sitting on a spike board, how he could want to stay, gesture with his hand said, "Actually there is something very important I must do, please forgive An He, will come back for a visit another time." Third princess reluctantly accepted and personally took Feng Ming out the door. Tong general and everyone sat in the next room drinking tea when they came outside of the third princess's quarter; surprisingly saw the third princess' courteous attitude toward Feng Ming, subtly amazed.

Once inside the carriage, not just Lie-er, but Xia Guan also entered with Feng Ming, only Tong general was riding alone because his body was too massive to squeeze inside. Xia Guan immediately said, "Congratulation Crown Prince, Your Highness certainly had great prestige embodiment, able to persuade the Third Princess return back to Xi-Rei." Feng Ming was smiling asked, "Xia Guan teacher, how do you know?"

Lie-er briskly interrupts replied, "Just based on the attitude of Third Princess with Crown Prince, who would not guess?"

"Moreover, when Li King Ruo Yan comes out, his face was not good; it means that the proposal failed. Crown Prince of course had fortitude and knowledgeable, Xia Guan concerned that Your Highness is too young, helpless unable to cope alone with Ruo Yan, appeared that I have worried too much." Xia Guan laughed, and nodded to applause Feng Ming.

Feng Ming thought of Ruo Yan, the image of the scary stares appeared, the whole body shuddered, shook his head and laughed dejectedly, "Do not mention Ruo Yan again, he was very scary, just to be close with him one time, can't help but trembles. "

"In the end he was inferior intelligent than Crown Prince, unable to capture Third Princess' hearts. Yeah, what was the strategy that you have used to deal with Ruo Yan?" The speech completed energised Feng Ming's spirit; expressively wagged the story inside the carriage, offered meticulously all details of the situation. His eloquence has always been good, at this moment his spirit was free, indulged assuring of himself, able to demonstrate the slope and climax of the story, Xia Guan and Lie-er listened and found them lost into the story, sometimes clapping hand to praises.

Finally, Xia Guan sighed, "Xia Guan knew Duke Rong knowledgeable with all Kingdoms ancient histories, as well astronomical and geography, but did not know that His Grace reached a

higher realm in calculation mathematics." Feng Ming remembered his story that has broadened up Duke Rong image, laughed for a while then silent. The convoys finally returned to the camp site, they walked into the room, where Chiu Lian and others was waiting. When they saw Feng Ming immediately rushed forward to welcome him back and smiles.

The three maidservants dragged Feng Ming off to change clothes, Chiu Lian said, "Congratulation Prince, a few days from now we will able to bring back the Third Princess to Xi-Rei, if Duke Rong know this he certainly will be very happy. "

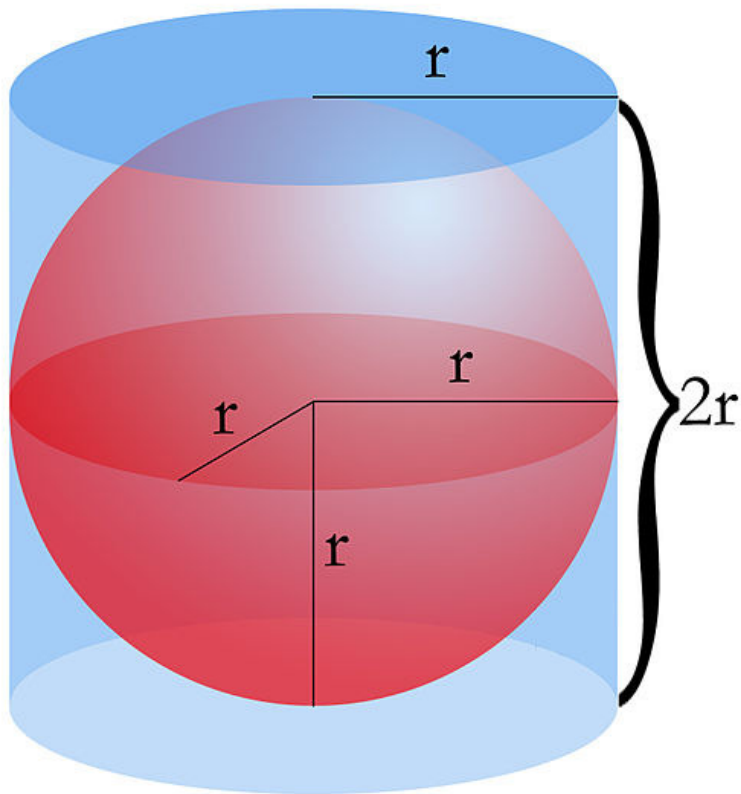
"How do you know?" Chiu Xing innocently nodded and smiled, "This is natural, of course, our Prince refined manner and very friendly, unparalleled on this earth thus Third Princess certainly willing agree to go back with us."

"Please Chiu Xing; you'd already said this yesterday. Could you find something new to say?"

"Hn, our Crown Prince every day always has refined manners, as well as generous, so we could say this every day. Chiu Lian, you saw of Xia Guan teacher and Tong General facial expressions were goods, thus guessed the good news; is this correct?"

Feng Ming amusement lifted his hands said, "Okay, okay, today was indeed gone very well, we of course could go back to Xi-Rei soon, and everyone should cheer up." When he finished his announcement, the three servants once again gurgling, and the excitedly asked if the third

princess in real life was as perfect as a rumour had it. The conversation becomes completely goofy languages, the sounds echoed throughout the camp.



Note: Diagram for those who like me had forgotten high-school mathematics formulas.

Chapter XI

The next day the weather suddenly becomes colder, under heavy snow, a white layer covered around the courtyard of the camp area.

Gui Sen reached the door at the early morning.

Fan Jia probably a country appreciated for beauty so men were no exception. Gui Sen dressed all in black, even his outer coat was illumination of black, his pale face was reddish colour, white snowflakes dotted fallen on the garments exemplify his perfectness, made him even looking more handsome, and eye-catching.

Feng Ming wanted to sleep in, but Chiu Lian group's pulled him up from the bed and washed his face, he forced himself awaken to shows hospitality to the guest.

"Good morning First Prince Consort, you have comes very early." Just as he arrived to the door, saw Gui Sen seated and drinking tea, Feng Ming clasped his palms.

Feng Ming awakened, the room was warmth from the closed off fire stove, he wore a simple purple garment, neck, wrists and waist were wrapped around a net skin which woven by Chiu Xing, though the costume did not stand out but showed the spirit of cavalier outlook.

Gui Sen turned his head, his eyes instantly light up, stood smiling and said, "Gui Sen especially

came here to congratulations to An He Prince, yesterday Crown Prince demonstrated your capacity that Third Princess have expressed the desire to go to Xi-Rei. Her Highness had spoken to Fan Jia King of this aspiration. "

It was surprisingly that everything had gone so smoothly, the third princess also taken swiftly action.

Feng Ming called out "Ah", turned to look at Xia Guan and Tong general; their face definitely showed amazement, unbelievable joys.

"Also, Fan Jia King believed that death of An Xun was not at fault of Xi-Rei, His Majesty ordered the army to immediately leave the border of Xi-Rei and return to Fan Jia." Gui Sen was neither fast nor slow informed them the most important news.

Tong general laughed and applauded, "That is very good!"

Xia Guan saluted directly to Gui Sen, devoutly said, "First Prince Consort has been a great helper, else all would have failed. Xi-Rei will never forget yours assistance."

Gui Sen shook his head smiled, "That's not true. I must lend a hand, as this is normal." He turned and looked at Feng Ming, dearly familiar said, "In three days the Great King would like to have an audience with Your Highness since he is not well to see you sooner. For the next two

days An He Crown Prince may wish to sightseeing and enjoy winter scenes of Fan Jia, let me act as a guide for Your Highness, what do you think?"

Feng Ming was not picky about the reception date, but when he heard sightseeing, remembered the white stallion of Gui Sen, was just about to nod, Lie-er was already interjected, "Prince, the next two days we should just sneak around and sample some flavour of commoners life style? "

Xia Guan also added immediately, "Yes, but if we let others know that we are Xi-Rei's embassy, it would be difficult to understand the situation of Fan Jia."

"If so, I could offer the prince's excursion sightseeing the commoners."

Lie-er glared then smiles, "First Prince Consort, you're distinguished person and you also well known here, how could we able disguised as ordinary citizens?"

Gui Sen surface was pale but now even paler, laughed, "If so, Gui Sen could not accompany you then." He scrutinised at Lie-er for a while, then quietly said to Feng Ming, "Prince, Gui Sen also have important things to do, I'll have to say goodbye." It seemed he was leaving with an unclear anger.

When Gui Sen gone, Feng Ming scratched his head, turned looking at the crowd behind him, he wrinkle up slender eyebrow, "Why are your attitudes for Gui Sen was fiercely like that? He

seems very kind offering to accompany us; if possible he would have provided a horse for me to ride..."

Xia Guan touched his beard, mysteriously smiling but said nothing.

Lie-er looked at Feng Ming, trying to be patience, then responded, "Prince, yesterday Gui Sen stepped on a nail, he quarrelled until his face turned grey, why is he looking extremely happy today and come here to bring you good news?"

"I don't know ..." Feng Ming was not afraid to learn from his servants, stared at Lie-er, "For what?"

Lie-er stolen a glance at Xia Guan and smiled, "Your servant only serving Your Highness, I don't know either? Xia Guan teacher should know. "

Feng Ming at once looked to the Xia Guan.

When everyone eyes on him, Xia Guan stopped scratching his goat's beard, sighed said, "Third Princess was too hastily, First Prince Consort also go overboard friendliness, probably did said a few good opinions to Fan Jia King. Therefore, the situation was somewhat strange, Xia Guan at this moment does not have all the information and thus incapable to draw conclusion, of course not everything is simple as that, the Crown Prince should be very careful. "

Tong general voice was also serious, "That is true, and this place is unlike Xi-Rei, it is best that Your Highness should not take liberally and leave this camp."

Feng Ming thought, *'When I was in Xi-Rei, I could not take liberally to leave the prince's quarter either?'* Nevertheless, he saw their serious face, could not help but slightly fearful , shoulder shrugged, "Fine, a little bit of paranoia and you all makes such a big deal, did Duke Rong sent you to scare me?"

Anyway, he thought it was true that the situation not as normal, the next day, he was obedience stayed at the camp to watch snowfall. Chiu Lian, Chiu Xing, Chiu Yue and Lie-er played noisily with him all day long. Tong general of course taken care of the camp protection. Xia Guan was the only one who went outside alone, no one knew why.

Chapter XII

It was evening when Xia Guan hurriedly walked on the snow back to the camp.

Tong general saw him and quickly pulled Xia Guan into the room, the two of them whispered discussing for a long time.

Feng Ming and Lie-er heard the news, walked toward them, from a distance saw they were whispering so hurriedly ran to them.

"Xia Guan teacher?"

Xia Guan startled and turned around, saluted to Feng Ming, "Ah, Your Highness Crown Prince."

"Xia Guan teacher have been outside all day."

"Yes, even more I collected a lot of harvest." Xia Guan scratched his goat beard, invited everyone to sit down, and then elaborated, "There are two things. The first, the spy that I sent had comes back, last night Fan Jia King suddenly suffered a strange disease, he almost died, but this morning he made miraculously recovery and requested Third Princess to the palace. "

Feng Ming's eyes widened, scratched his head said, "Last night he nearly died, and then he was healthy again this morning. Hahaha, Fan Jia medicine development must improve a lot."

He turned to Lie-er said, "Whenever we leaved here, we need to bring a healer back to Xi-Rei."

Tong general disagree shook his head, "If discussing about medicine, there are not many in this world able to outdo Xia Guan teacher? I believed that there must be something wrong. "

Everyone mused as theirs eyes were glancing over to Xia Guan.

Xia Guan nodded, "That is correct. Xia Guan not dares to be boastful, but from what I observed, Fan Jia King is not in good health, his illness worsen, in fact no more than three days, there is surely a great burial in Fan Jia. "

"Ah, so ... so ... so Fan Jia King's reception with us is also in three days."

Lie-er quietly, his head bowed and thoughtfully for a while, after that he asked Xia Guan, "Xia Guan teacher, how can you be sure Fan Jia King will die?"

Xia Guan was proud, touched his beard and laughed out loud, "I have been asked around about the condition of Fan Jia King, it seems that he was not sudden fallen sick, he have long been poisoning, until now that it emerged. I'm guessing the toxic is Man She."

It was another conspiracy within royalty, it seemed comparing with Xi-Rei, Fan Jia was even

more bad luck, to think that even the highest position in the kingdom, King status sovereignty did not immune from being harm.

'Fortunately, this prince status is a fake, in three months everything should be back to normal.'

Feng Ming patted his chest, carefully asked, "Fan Jia King poisoned, and why have they not find the culprit?"

"Man She poison is extremely rare, throughout this world those who understood its properties were not many, not only that the infection symptoms do not appeared for a very long time, when it does the victim diagnosed as serious illness, nor they could able to use needle to test. The only sure thing is that the victim will suddenly sick and then healthy again, the process repeated for two or three times, then died. "

Tong general frowned, "Who is so bold, had the guts to kill Fan Jia King?"

"If it was poison, then the killer must have been someone very close to Fan Jia King. However, the most important thing is not discuss about who is the killer, but we must considering our own situation." Xia Guan waved the fan in his hands, turned his head toward Feng Ming, with serious expression, "Crown Prince, the strange attitudes of the Third Princess and Gui Sen, Xia Guan have understood."

"Teacher please gives us counsel."

Xia Guan stood up, eyebrows knitted, slowly walked around the round table, then turned to face everyone, opened his mouth, "Firstly, why the Third Princess was hurrying to Xi-Rei? This because she assumed that her Father King would not able to live very long, when Fan Jia King's die, no matter who inherit the throne that is the First Prince Consort or the Second Prince Consort, would not be good for her, so it better if she is leaving as soon as possible, to seek shelter in another country."

This speculation seemed to be reasonable enough; the third princess was not a fool who only discern mathematics. Everyone nodded in approval.

"Secondly, why Fan Jia King ordered withdrawal his army..." Xia Guan paused, suddenly smiling then asked, "Anyone could think of whom?"

Feng Ming lowered his head thoughtfully for a moment, suddenly remembered that scary eyes, small voice asked, "Is it because of Li King Ruo Yan?"

Xia Guan clapped said, "Crown Prince is truly intelligent, that is correct, it is because of Ruo Yan."

Tong general also startled awakening and added, "Ruo Yan suddenly proposed Third Princess, proved that he had intention toward Fan Jia Kingdom. Fan Jia King is not a fool, of course, would know. "

"Fan Jia King knew his ailing has no cure, about to die, so before his death he thought it would be best to send his beloved daughter to Xi-Rei, by withdraw the army the relationship with Xi-Rei was surely positive since he had shows grace to us. In reality, this strategy was allows him a way to retreat, in the future if Li Kingdom was offensive, Fan Jia will have ally."

The presentation of Xia Guan was successful. It was addition replayed information for everyone; they gathered forth all what happened over the period and discussed until everything have fallen into places.

Lie-er added his opinion, "Third Princess seem likes someone who do not care for politics and schemes, actually she is the key pawn in Fan Jia King's hand, with her in Xi-Rei, once Fan Jia was ambushes by Li Kingdom, Third Princess would certainly asking Crown Prince for military assistance."

"Moreover, the army was outside of Fan Jia, if Fan Jia King is going to dies, he would naturally draw his army back, to prevent internal disturbances might occur during the mourning period."

Feng Ming bitten his lips, depressed concludes, "If this is the case, even without the advantage of my performance in mathematics, Third Princess will still be go to Xi-Rei. Oh, and here I thought that it my promised of higher mathematical discussion really work."

Xia Guan console said, "Crown Prince why are you upset? If Your Highness had not shows your

capacity, Third Princess and Fan Jia King would not believe that Xi-Rei would qualify for Fan Jia protection, thus Third Princess may feel obligated and forced to accept Ruo Yan's proposal. Therefore, Fan Jia King is able to reject the intercession of Li King, since they put their trust in Crown Prince of Xi-Rei."

That seemed to be reasonable, Feng Ming excited and sat up straight, instantly revealing two small dimples, his delicate eyebrows raised up gently, very lively. If Duke Rong were there by his side, he would have stolen a kiss.

Xia Guan continued said, "Thirdly, why Gui Sen has been over enthusiastic friendliness."

Feng Ming this time enthusiastic called out, holding his hand up said, "The reason was he also knew Fan Jia's health was not good and hoped to inherit the kingdom, of course excited, moreover, he hoped that we taken Third Princess back with us, much less thorn in the eyes. "

Tong general shook his head, "Prince's speculation is not bad, but I think Gui Sen did not want us to leave quickly, but hoping that we will stay longer."

"Yes, he hopes we will stay longer, preferably until a new King is ascended the throne." Xia Guan nodded, took a cup of hot tea on the table then sips a mouthful, "He was here very early in the morning to tell us the news, also hoped to take the prince sightseeing. This because he wants us to be relaxed, reassured to stay longer in Fan Jia. When Fan Jia King died suddenly mean

Third Princess could not leaving, then we have to stay until the new king ascended to the throne."

Feng Ming confused, facial pain asked, "Why does he want us to stay? Their place has surplus foods, and wants us to eat at a little more? "

Xia Guan dropped his voice suddenly, quietly mysterious then smirked, "There is one thing I have not said, Crown Prince will understand once I do." He deliberately paused for a while, waited everyone steep concentrations on him, smiled continue, "Yesterday when I detected Li King was here in Fan Jia so I ordered a spy to follow his movement. Does Crown Prince know when he leaved the Third Princess's mansion, where did he go? "

Feng Ming's head turned, his face changed, immediately reacted, "Gui Sen?"

"Yes, he had a meeting with Gui Sen. Ruo Yan knew his proposal failed; Third Princess was no longer useful, obviously, he will have to find one who is hoping for the throne of Fan Jia."

Feng Ming shook his head, "No way, how Ruo Yan knew the Fan Jia King will soon die?"

"Ruo Yan was very scholar and wise; there was not much that would pass his eyes. Let alone, must have heard before Fan Jia King has fallen ill once, but in no real danger as now. With those symptoms, Ruo Yan could able to predict."

Feng Ming agreed with a nod, *'Ruo Yan was formidable; maybe he was the one who have poisoned Fan Jia King.'* He looked surprise and asked Xia Guan, "Ruo Yan secretly meet with Gui Sen, eight out of ten planned to assist Gui Sen of ascended to the throne, if Gui Sen become King, how would he repaying for the assistance, Hn, he shall keep the throne for himself. The only thing I do not understand why Gui Sen want us to stay? Does he want to harm Third Princes? "

Feng Ming does not understand, when he asked the question, everyone faces immediately looked stiff as they staring at him.

Feng Ming blinked, "What's the matter?"

Tong general seemed to be a bit awkward, turned the other way. Xia Guan grabbed the goat beard, eyes closed as if preserved his mind. Lie-er was the only one, who reacted strongly, laughed bending to Feng Ming's ear said softly, "Prince, Gui Sen he did not want to harm Third Princess, and the person who he wants to hurt is you."

"What? Harm me? "Feng Ming's eyes widened, "Why would he want to harm me?"

Lie-er immediately did not answer, instead he examined Feng Ming from top to bottom, and summarised, "Prince's gaze, do not even mention Gui Sen, your servant's bones have already yielding."

Tong general suddenly turned, and shouted, "Lie-er, you are a lowly servant attending to the Prince, how dare you speak that way to the Prince? Do not suppose that the Prince treated you as important person, can be uncontrollable."

Lie-er shrink, bowed his head and burning with resentment. Feng Ming grabbed his shirt questioned, "You said, Gui Sen he..." he thought of those smiling gestures of Gui Sen, watched him, suddenly his throat become bitter cold.

Lie-er observed Tong general, who slapped his mouth because he had said too much, whispered, "Gui Sen should not really take into account. I feared the conditions of negotiation in exchange for assistance from Ruo Yan, also includes Your Highness."

"What?" He thought of the canine evil looks of Ruo Yan with Gui Sen, when they brought him forward in their negotiation, instantly goose bumps appeared on Feng Ming's body, he nonstop cursing them, promptly said, "No way, I am the Crown Prince of Xi-Rei, how dare they bring me..."

In his head, a scene pops up; Gui Sen tied him like a pig, offered to Ruo Yan, and instantly coldly trembled.

Xia Guan moaned, "If we stay here until Fan Jia King Funeral, the throne fall to Gui Sen, of course there nothing he could not dare to do."

Boom!

Tong general instantly hit the table, started everyone.

He stood up, raised an eyebrow, deep voice, "Fan Jia imminent changes, we should not delay in completed our job and depart right away."

Feng Ming scared and his spirit had yet to recuperate, when he heard someone have similar thought, like a chicken picked rice nodded, "Yeah, we will immediate depart."

"Crown Prince's idea is the same as Xia Guan." Xia Guan waved his fan. "The only thing is we could not leave immediately, we're guests, also want to take Third Princess with us, and thus at least we must meet Third Princess and Fan Jia King for final arrangement."

"Yes, I was planning to see the Third Princess tonight, will pleaded her for approval to depart quickly."

Xia Guan added, "Tong general will speak to Third Princess tonight for leaving, she will naturally see Fan Jia King for support. If tomorrow Fan Jia King's reception is still on, Crown Prince could possible asking for immediately departure."

Feng Ming nodded, "Okay, I will do that."

After struggling to arrange all the matters satisfactorily, Tong general rode his horse swiftly, directly toward the third princess's mansion.

Chapter XIII

Lie-er asked, "Xia Guan teacher, you said there are two matters, one that you have already told us, so what is the other one?"

"This matter is related to Prince, Lie-er you are a servant, why do you asked?"

Lie-er snorted "Hn" coldly, watched Feng Ming for a while, and then smirked, "Your servant understand, everyone want to have a private conversation. That fine, I will go outside and serves." He stepped outside and put the curtain back down, and then he went off searching Chiu Xing's group.

Feng Ming saw Lie-er leaving, turned looking at Xia Guan, "Xia Guan teacher, you don't have to be difficult with Lie-er? He was just asking a question after all."

Xia Guan laughed, "Crown Prince, do you not see for a servant, he is too erudite knowledgeable, also brave and cunning, what more the works that he had overseen for Your Highness, become more and more."

"This issue we had already discussed, although he is a spy but as you had said he will temporarily not detrimental to me, he may able to help, so let him help that should be good."

"Spy of course could be use, but could not be completely trusted." Xia Guan grabbed his beard, had a scowl, "I am not reassuring, Prince already knew he is a spy and should not trust him, yet you're still believe in him."

"This..." Feng Ming stunned.

Indeed, although Feng Ming was aware Lie-er has unknown origin but he still trusted him.

Lie-er had a unique personality which makes people unconsciously relied heavily on him and trusts him. Feng Ming began to fear, if Lie-er relied on this ability to get national security information will surely make it difficult for others to detect.

Xia Guan said, "Lie-er up until now have never hidden his capacity, we knew that he was not an ordinary person. This of course made us loose vigilance."

Feng Ming nodded quietly.

This was not wrong. This was truly a good psychological tactic.

Xia Guan saw Feng Ming started to be more careful, which what he had set out to achieve, comfortable smiling again, "We will discuss about Lie-er again in the future, it may be possible that he have enchanted with Your Highness' demeanour, and was really done all he could to pleases you. The second issue that I want talk to Your Highness..." He paused, then carefully taken out a letter from the chest, clutched in his hand, quietly, "Letter from Duke Rong."

"Really?" Feng Ming immediately leaped up, "What did he wrote? Quick let me see!"

Immediately he grabbed Xia Guan's hands.

Xia Guan shook his head and laughed, "Crown Prince how could you forgetting formality? All together there are three letters from Duke Rong, one for Tong General, one for me, and one for Your Highness. We had already read our alone, and this is for the Crown Prince." His hand which tightly gripped was now open, inside was a small sphere piece.

Feng Ming blinked holding the sphere in his hand, brought it to light which beamed from the window, and thought, *'Damn Duke Rong, even when write a letter still play a crafty game, how do I know what to do with this.'*

Xia Guan was smart, saw Feng Ming scratching his head; he gently cleared his throat and began to explain, "Prince, just squeeze it with your hand and it should completely cracked the piece."

"Eh..." Feng Ming heard him instantly crushed it, sure enough; there was something black fell out, seemed to be a gauze rolls into a ball.

This time, he needs not Xia Guan to remind, Feng Ming opened the gauze. The gauze clearly is a special treasure, thin, transparent, when rolled become a tiny mass, but when it was completely spread opened all the layers, taken up nearly half of the table space.

Feng Ming initially thought this gauze was purely black, but when he opened discover the material was transparent, the piece covered with many words, which why when rolled was seen as black.

"What?" carefully brought the weird letter place on the table, Feng Ming looks stunned.

He original speculative Duke Rong has written a comfort letter to him, thought excitedly, *'he will write how much he missed me. Of course apologizing for forced me to travel to Fan Jia for diplomatic mission.'* However, instead of reservations, he only to see the entire letter written one word, all over, the word repeated numerous times, tiny writing of the same word - "An".

'An (Safe)? What does he mean?'

'If the letter was meaning that he really misses me, would it not better be abound with two words "Feng Ming"? Although it would be a bit sentimental but then again, that Duke Rong do not have a romantic in his bone at all, he never do it.'

'I don't understand; what game is he playing with this message?' Feng Ming looks despondent.

"Prince," Xia Guan saw Feng Ming's face, able to predict, twisted his beard slightly and asked, "Your Highness known Xi-Rei Royalty rites for praying "safety", right?"

"Praying for safety?" Feng Ming tried to remember.

Duke Rong seemed have told him, though it does not leave him a strong impression.

How should he know? He taught very quickly about many royalty rituals, what more during the learning process Duke Rong continued "harassment" Feng Ming which made it very hard for him to concentrate on his studies.

'I had forgotten that should be right.'

Xia Guan was truly knowledgeable person immediately explained, "Praying for "safety" etiquette, was means for the most important person of the prayer. Prayer must be bathed and fasting for seven days, and before the gods they must written the word "An". Duke Rong sent

this, was hoping that Your Highness would carry it with him for protection, so Your Highness could have security and at peace."

Feng Ming was frozen dazedly dreamed. He knew he was easily blushed, instantly lower his head to avoid eyes contact of Xia Guan. He was discontent murmured, "Humph, superstitious thinking. Doing useless things, if he knew this early should not force me..." He thought over the part that Duke Rong without eaten meat for seven days, be willing to sacrifice for him, felt a sweet feeling rose in the chest and discontinued abused him verbally.

"Prince, so the letter..."

"Whether it's superstition, but used as a precaution is still good. Anyway I might meet that intimidating and formidable Ruo Yan in the future." Feng Ming said and quickly put the letter into his sleeve.

Xia Guan rolled his eyes and laughed quite a bit. Feng Ming looks embarrassed and ran away to find Chiu Lian's group.

At midnight, Tong general risky ventured back from the icy snow that covered the road, when he arrived at the door, he went straightaway to see Feng Ming and Xia Guan, "Third Princess understood the severe circumstances, this evening she will see Fan Jia King, seriously persuaded him to let Crown Prince leaving early."

Xia Guan asked, "Tong General met the Princess, did you mentioned of the strange disease in which Fan Jia King have infected?"

"Kukuku," The trustworthy face of Tong general for the first time revealing fiendishly cunning smiled, "I had slyly inserts the idea about poison during our conversation. Third Princess is clever person surely will pick it up and bring forth our scepticism to Fan Jia King."

Feng Ming opened his mouth, "Gui Sen will be facing misfortune."

"Fan Jia King's serious illness has cause politics instability. He will not execute Gui Sen. However, before Fan Jia King pass away, Gui Sen will inevitable find it very difficult to avoid from suffocation. "

Lie-er laughed, "That is good, as long as he could not hang around our Prince all day."

Everyone laughed loudly while Feng Ming alone was blushing.

Xia Guan asked Tong general, "Fan Jia King was poisoned and will surely die, Tong General did not explicitly told Third Princess right."

"Why should I tell her? If I did, how will she consent to leave Fan Jia? "

"That is very good." Xia Guan mused and nodded, his spirit buoyed up, in the eyes flashed a beam, "So tomorrow we will leave early in the morning after Fan Jia King received Crown Prince. We should now go to pack our luggage for the journey back."

"Yes!"

Everyone smiled at each other, one by one, pulling their sleeves up and went to their room for luggage arrangements.

Xia Guan speculation did not failed, early next morning there was a messenger arrived at their camp, invited Crown Prince An He to go to the palace.

Chiu Lian attentively prepared dressing up Feng Ming, smiled and said, "Since this is the last day, whatever they say, Crown Prince certainly bounded to dazzling Fan Jia King's eyes."

"Chiu Lian, what you said seems like I only have a beautiful body."

"That is correct, there are many extraordinary men in the world, but to have both, beauty and talents similar to Your Highness is truthfully are rare."

Chiu Yue covered her mouth and nodded, "Everyone said female of Fan Jia, male of Xi-Rei are

the most beautiful in the world. Your servant had made a bet with Chiu Xing that Prince will bring a Fan Jia's bride back with us. "

Chiu Xing also shouted, "That's right, hahaha, at least, if not able to find a bride, bringing the Third Princess one of the greatest beauties home, that's just fine."

The thoughts of meeting the beautiful woman of Fan Jia, Third Princess who was well known throughout the kingdoms, the three maidservants very excited, began their uproarious whispered to one another.

Feng Ming for the first time understood if these three maidservants gathered together, they would even more noisily than a market place, he could not do anything but stood still in the middle of loud noises, as they dressed him and put the sword aside his waist. Finally, he was able to escape the great tribulation and followed the messenger, travel to the palace.

Chapter XIV

Fan Jia's Palace used red brick, it was majestic splendour.

Feng Ming led Tong general, Xia Guan entered the palace main gate, Lie-er was a servant he could only wait outside at the carriage.

The snowstorm finally stopped, the great path leading to inner palace was spotless, obviously the servants swept the snow away.

Gui Sen was waiting on one side, saw Feng Ming's crowd headed into the palace, and immediately walked over to welcome them.

"Prince, we meet again." Gui Sen smiled, it was hard to see that yesterday he displeased with Feng Ming's people, friendly pulled Feng Ming's hand and lowering his voice said, "Tell you the truth, Great King recently have been unwell. Today His Majesty have an audience with Your Highness, I fears that it incited by Third Princess. Third Princess supported by Dong Fang Tian and have an understanding with Ruo Yan, Your Highness pleases beware of this woman."

Feng Ming startled for a moment.

He could not believe Gui Sen could be so treacherous, obviously allied with Ruo Yan but acting very familiar with him, and also tried to split the relationship between Xi-Rei and Third Princess.

It was truly abhorrent.

Feng Ming blinks then smirked as he lower his voice, "Thank you First Prince Consort notification. Yesterday on the streets, I heard a rumour; they said Fan Jia King had not fallen seriously ill but actually poisoned. First Prince Consort, you should carefully check your own food. "

He was just joking, however, it seemed like he had smacked Gui Sen on the head, his face pales, then awaken as he seriously asked, "Prince, where did you heard this from?"

"On the streets everyone said so." Feng Ming determined to pretend to the very end, surprisingly asked, "First Prince Consort, surely you must heard something?"

"This... this..." Gui Sen was suspicious, his face changed as if he had not heard anything, hasty closed his palms before Feng Ming, "Fan Jia King would immediately summon Your Highness, pleaded Your Highness standing here to wait. Gui Sen is very busy with diplomatic affairs, unable to accompany you."

After that he rushed away, it seemed he was bound to investigate "the neighbourhood".

Feng Ming giggled for a moment, the guard that went inside to report had came back, turned to

the Feng Ming said, "Great King is unwell, he is resting in his bedchamber, could not meet a lot of people, only invited An He Crown Prince to go in by yourself."

"Crown Prince alone goes to chamber?" Tong general was the first who dissatisfied, looked at Xia Guan before his palms closing said, "Please informed Fan Jia King, Tong Jian Ming under strict ordered of Duke Rong that I will not take a single step away from the Crown Prince. Is it possible for me to be with Prince when he has an audience with Fan Jia King? "

Feng Ming glared briefly at him. If Duke Rong had not allowed him to leave Feng Ming one step, then what about the previous occasion at the third princess's palace, he had no loyalty and duty then, let Feng Ming alone to meet Third Princess and Ruo Yan.

The guard was considering. He must be very close to Fan Jia King, so muttered, "If so, please wait here; let me revert to Great King."

Half an hour later, he came back, said to Feng Ming, "Great king indeed is unwell, unable to see many people. Crown Prince may entered the bedchamber alone, if unwilling you could wait two more days until His Majesty in good health, he will received guests at the Court Hall."

If two more days, it may not be possible, Fan Jia King would be death.

Feng Ming knew they could not continue further. He hastily glanced over Xia Guan and beckoned him to make the decision.

Xia Guan touched his moustache and muttered, "In that case, Crown Prince still natural needs to see Fan Jia King and enquired after his health."

"But ..."

"Tong General should not worry, Prince is brave and intelligent. This is in the Royal Palace so we can rest assured for his safety."

Feng Ming's forehead was sweating.

An Xun was also a brave and intelligent man. It was also in the Royal Palace, where Duke Rong spitted his head like a pumpkin.

The guard saluted to Feng Ming, "If this is so, please follow me."

Feng Ming was a little hesitates, but Xia Guan pushed him from behind and told him to walk a little faster.

He bitten his lip softly, he thought Xia Guan seemed confidence of the situation. Everything had been prepared perfectly. Since he is the Crown Prince of Xi-Rei, he should at least have some courage to see Fan Jia King. He fisted his palms, made a resolute decision and straightforward steps.

Fan Jia Palace's structures compared to Xi-Rei have many differences, moderately opposite, in addition to the main road leading to the Court Hall. There were countless small roads; a bit similar to Suzhou Park style. The designs like this based upon calculus mathematics development. It seems that the design architectural directly studied from the stars in the sky, thus building according to the terrain etc...

Feng Ming followed the guard, walked left and right which interspersed for half day in the Palace. After it seemed likes forever, he struggled on the roads before he stood outside of Fan Jia King's bedchamber. The bridge made of white pearl was the only crossing over to the other side of buildings, then beyond a very long stairway should be the entry to the King's bedchamber. The architecture designed to shows formality dignity of a King and a sense of art, if in modern times, it no doubt would win the best award in architectural design.

During his admiration, the opposite road seems to have another two shapes arrived. Feng Ming did not think about Fan Jia King still have other guest to see beside him, he stared and horrified at the sight before him. He tried hard to deflate the horrors raises inside.

There were two men on the opposite road, the one in front was Fan Jia's guard and person behind was someone who just by a gaze could brought fears to Feng Ming's heart, Ruo Yan.

"An He Crown Prince, we have met again." Ruo Yan saw Feng Ming earlier, walked to the front staircases and closing his palms before Feng Ming.

Feng Ming met Ruo Yan face to face; only want to hide behind the guard. He decided to make a quick escape and ran to Fan Jia King's bedchamber. However, Ruo Yan seemed deliberately stood at the entrance and prevented him from taken the steps up on the stairway. He did not dare to push Ruo Yan aside instead swallowed his fear. He walked to Ruo Yan and coldly nodded, "Li King also here to see Fan Jia King?"

Ruo Yan narrowed his eyes and observed Feng Ming for a moment, smirked, "I heard Fan Jia King was unwell, I, of course must enquiry after his health. Why is Crown Prince here?"

"I? I am also here to enquire after his health."

"Tsk, Tsk" Ruo Yan shook his head, teasing said, "I thought Your Highness maybe afraid staying in Fan Jia, consequently, wanted to see Fan Jia King and requested to leave as soon as possible with Third Princess."

This person used provokes strategy here. Feng Ming was not so stupid and nodded, "Yes, An He indeed hopes to leave soon. Fan Jia's landscapes are beautiful, but Xi-Rei should not be without the King for one day, since I am here in order to welcome the return of Duchess Aunt, has been delayed the coronation ceremony. It still is better to return a little early."

Ruo Yan smiled, his eyes looking at Feng Ming suddenly flashed a radiance beam, so coldly that made other afraid.

Their eyes contacted which made Feng Ming very afraid as his heart jumbled into chaos, his survival instinct made him retreating a bit.

Ruo Yan pleased seeing Feng Ming step back, pretended startle awakening and tapped his forehead, "Ah, I was thinking why Prince stood still like that, it seems that I've blocking your way. However, the truth is, we both are going the same way." The speech was profound implied, laughed coldly, take a step back, his palm invited, "Prince please go first."

"No, no, please go ahead Li King."

"It should be Your Highness, please." Ruo Yan was extremely bold, before the two guards he imperturbable reach out and grasped Feng Ming's shoulder.

Feng Ming would never allowed Ruo Yan to touch him, immediately two steps jumped up on the staircases, "If so I'll go first then."

Ruo Yan laughs, and laughed, followed behind him.

Why there are so many steps here, winding track even to bend like that? A powerful old tiger followed behind him, who had made him restlessly unease, instantly resentment-unspoken criticism on the innovative architecture.

Suddenly, behind him Ruo Yan voiced echoing.

"Prince, the weapon you wear is the “Unparallel” sword?"

"Ah?" Feng Ming heard the other man called, instantly shudder and hastily nodded, "Yes."

He did not think Ruo Yan observation skill was this good, a glance and realized it was the “Unparallel” sword. Since Ruo Yan able to guess then he must knew the “Unparallel” sword background. There likely chance that he also guessed the other sword was by Duke Rong’s side, so as long in this moment if he drawn a sword to kill Feng Ming, would also mean he kill Duke Rong, Xi-Rei immediately will be fallen in chaos.

‘Ruo Yan has ambition to rule over the world, would this opportunity allowed him to achieve his wishes?’

The more Feng Ming thoughts the more he felt unsettled. His body hair erected, and was not beware of the wet area below his feet.

"Ah," his foot suddenly slipped, his whole body fallen backward.

Instantly a big hand from behind sturdily solid caught Feng Ming, Ruo Yan’s body moved closer touch his own, his head look down to gaze at Feng Ming who was leaned on his chest.

"Prince please carefully, the steps made of white jade, furthermore newly fallen snow so made it extremely slippery." Ruo Yan warmth breath gently felt behind the ear, the atmosphere suddenly becomes awkward and ambiguous.

Feng Ming was very close to Ruo Yan face, so easily detected the discernible possessiveness desires appeared in his eyes. It was the most appalling mood.

"I know it slippery." He struggled to stand up, but could not do anything against Ruo Yan's hands, which had been practices swordplay. Ruo Yan just gently squeezed around the waist immediately taken away Feng Ming's strengths.

From the distance looks on the situation, seemed likes Feng Ming had deliberately leaned against Ruo Yan.

Ruo Yan satisfied and would not let the opportunities pass, bantered, "Your Highness, do not want to stand up?" He was even more insolent, when he talked his lips were touching Feng Ming's ear. He relied on the fact that the two guards stood behind them obviously unable to see his actions. He gently used his tongue licking softly on Feng Ming's face. Since they were close range he spoken deeply that only Feng Ming heard, "I did not think that in Xi-Rei Imperial Palace to have such a splendid beauty, Duke Rong had been tasted your flavours."

Feng Ming was shocked, goose bumps all over him, shamefully flushed, bitten his teeth looking aggressively at the other, lower his voice, "Let go of me."

"Ha ha, this sexuality charms filled eyes. You're not fit to be a Crown Prince, instead should be the Prince's lover, more appropriate." Ruo Yan had enough teasing; at last, slowly his hands were gently loosens.

When those knuckled leaved him, as if Feng Ming escaped from a fox supernatural power, immediately took several yards away. He turned and glared angrily at Ruo Yan; tried very hard at least to keep a few steps away from him, hastily went to Fan Jia King's bedchamber.



Suzhou Park

Chapter XV

Part I

If omitted the attentive eyes of Ruo Yan, which always made Feng Ming felt like he was sitting on the spike board; the encounters with Fan Jia King went extremely smooth.

Fan Jia King's face was glowed with healthy colour. He sat on a fur blanket and taken turning to invite Feng Ming and Ruo Yan for toast. If Xia Guan had not told Feng Ming that Fan Jia King was poisoned, it would be unbelievable that such a healthy body and robust like mountain of Fan Jia King only survived for another three days.

Nevertheless, he did not understood why the guard insisted that Fan Jia King was not well enough to receive many people at once time.

Third princess indeed has great influence on Fan Jia King, when Feng Ming expressed the hope to leave early tomorrow from Fan Jia, the King happily agreed.

After they had reached the date and the time of departure for the embassy, Fan Jia King changed the topic, he referred to Feng Ming's great technical method of calculation in mathematics, "I heard Prince could easily solved one of world problem, make others extremely amazes."

Feng Ming felt eyes pokes at him again, instantly grew edgier, he waved his palm and laughed

regretfully, "I amused Your Majesty that was not the solution from An He, and it was Duke Rong who had imparted the knowledge."

"Oh? Duke Rong of Xi-Rei, a handsome outstanding young man and knowledgeable; and Ruo Yan Li King have been proclaimed throughout as the world bi-preminent, but it was still a surprise to hear that he also apparently mastered in mathematics as well. "

Ruo Yan smiled, "Fan Jia King was flattered, and Duke Rong indeed an outstanding person over many people. Ruo Yan knowledge is limits. Nonetheless, the Prince is surely the one who extraordinary, should be claim to be the world talented handsome man, this of course is more accurate." His eyes without the slightest hesitation moved towards Feng Ming, he saw Feng Ming was glaring at him, since Fan Jia King's attention on Feng Ming thus not noticing Ruo Yan on this occasion, softly repeated the tongue licking in front of Feng Ming's eyes.

Feng Ming instantly reflex and touches his outer earlobe where Ruo Yan had licked before and his face was on guard.

Feng Ming sincerity actions made Ruo Yan laughing, he drank the entire wine cup, then turned to Feng Ming smugly said, "Since Prince mastered the art mathematics, Ruo Yan also have a problems, please counsel me for once."

Ruo Yan deliberately bullied and provoked Feng Ming a few times causing him very irritated,

but Feng Ming smiled as if nothing happen, "Oh, Li King is brilliant, how could you have a problem? Just deliberately made An He feels awkward. "

Fan Jia King listened with interest, when they first step inside the room they seemed to oppose each other, but now they had officially launched the skirmish, so he simply sat on top the bed, indifferent looking down at them.

"Tsk, tsk, how can I bear to embarrass Your Highness? If you're scared, Ruo Yan will not ask again so it should be all right. "

To leave it likes that, same as allowed Ruo Yan smeared his face as clown before Fan Jia King, Feng Ming snorted, coldly deigned, "Li King please goes ahead." He thought, *'Anyway Third Princess has agreed to travel to Xi-Rei, even if I could not response to the question correct, it would not matter.'*

"If so, then I will ask." Ruo Yan concealed his smile and asked, "There is a huge rock, weighing a thousand pounds, and a small toddler whose hand should only able to rise ten pounds, the question is... How could the toddler able to move the rock? "

Fan Jia King laughed, "Li King surely joking, a small child, there is no way he was able to move a thousand pounds?"

Feng Ming stunned. He was not surprised because he was unable answer, but it was unbelievable that in this era could bring forward a physical example to mathematics arts.

Ruo Yan guessed that Feng Ming could not answer and his lips were a mocking smile.

Feng Ming's heart extremely irritated so all his fear of Ruo Yan had thrown away on to oblivion. Then he deliberately faked awkwardness frowning for a long time, then waited until everyone thoughts that he would turn to ask Ruo Yan for pardon. In that second, he suddenly shook his head and looks very disappointed, "The topic is very simple, why Li King asked me. Is it because Li Kingdom does not have this problem? Hahaha, this is easy; just using a very long rod and a large rock on it should solve the problem. This is using the lever principle, based on the formula to calculate for this structure, the rod should be very long and the most important part is where the rod needs to be set against the rock..."

Compared to mathematics Feng Ming was much better at physics so he able to describe it more thoroughly and effortlessly, as he talked, also used the chopstick on the table as a prop for the illustration. He explained the most basic lever principle of physic and gives the solution in a clearly detailed manner, when Ruo Yan and Fan Jia King heard his speech their faces were extremely surprised.

Ruo Yan had used one the most recent discovery of mathematics in Li Kingdom so that he could dampened Feng Ming's spirit; instead, the new advance idea that they had treasured was easily

answered by Feng Ming, who give a simple clarification and much more knowledgeable on topic, hence his spirit stirred, there simply no words to express his feelings at this moment.

The Crown Prince of Xi-Rei indeed was not a simple person. The Prince besides have refined manners and carefree personalities, also the source of Ruo Yan secretly longing and fondly memorised, to have aptitudes like this.

Ruo Yan thoughtfully for a moment then he came up with a different problem and his bright eyes flashed.

Feng Ming already observed Ruo Yan reaction, upon saw the other man eyes suddenly appeared a ray of lights, he knew that Ruo Yan was up to no good, an evil intention. Feng Ming was not a fool, immediately pre-emptive and robbed Ruo Yan speech, "I heard Li King also good at mathematics, An He heard a very interesting mathematics problem, would like to seek counsel with Li King?"

Feng Ming recently answered a problem of Ruo Yan, of course, Ruo Yan could not refuse his question as he sneered coldly, "Prince please asks."

"There is a King wants to make a new crown, he gave five pounds of gold to a jewellery maker. The jewellery maker had skilfully carved the crown and brought the new crown to the King, it was extremely sophisticated masterpiece. However, the King was sceptical of the jewellery maker honesty and believed the man may have stolen the gold. He weighted the crown numerous

times but it is still five pounds. Therefore, ultimately is the entire crown was made of pure gold, or has been mixed with silver? Li King, how would you investigate for the genuineness? "

When the question was out of Feng Ming's mouth, Ruo Yan and Fan Jia King immediately glanced at each other in bewilderment.

This complex problem was troublesome, no one had ever thought about it before. Fan Jia King's hand started to touches the crown on his head, silently thought, *'I wonder if this was made of pure gold only.'*

Ruo Yan has a servant, Dong Fang Tian professor who very outstanding in mathematics field in the world, thus it was not a surprise that he should be mastery in the field too. When he heard the topic from Feng Ming, already knew it was profoundly intrigues, and speculated, *'could it be that Xi-Rei mathematics calculation have reached this high level of intensity, Li Kingdom known throughout the world for the best mathematics' nation, but it was clearly far inferior in comparison with Xi-Rei. Kukuku, if so, I must take An He Prince back; make him to tell all the principal information of Xi-Rei mathematics...'*

When he thought up to this point, he was silent and quietly observed Feng Ming.

Feng Ming was conceited in his own little world, how he could have possible had noticed the strange gazes given off from Ruo Yan. He brought forward a classic renowned physic example from Ancient Greece and presented to these "ancient people", on the surface he was calm, but

inside was laughing so hard that he could feel his intestines contracted.

The third princess of Fan Jia King was also a master of mathematics, of course, the King too had a clear understanding of mathematics. He frowned for a long time and could not stop being curious. He asked Feng Ming, "This topic is too difficult, Crown Prince, do you know how it could be investigated whether the crown was made of pure gold or not?"

Feng Ming was enjoying looking at Ruo Yan's shocked face for a long time, and then said, "This problem is not difficult. Let me ask the King, in comparing the weight of five pounds of silver and five pounds of gold, which is heavier?"

"Of course the five pounds of silver."

"Therefore the weight of five pounds that mixed with silver and gold, compared to five pounds of gold in weight, should it not be the mixed metals be heavier than the latter?"

Fan Jia King nodded, "That is correct, but the crown had carved so finely with decorations, how is it possible to know which one is heavier?"

"The main focus is that." Feng Ming clapped his hand, smiled and said, "Your Majesty just prepared two huge tanks of water, take the crown and the five pounds of gold weight and drop them into each tank of water, observe the water overflows to see whether it is still the same or different, wouldn't that give you the answer?"

Ruo Yan was smart upon heard Feng Ming's solution instantly understood, as if someone poured water over his head to sober him; his eyes staggered as he watching over Feng Ming.

To demonstrate mathematics with simplicity methods actually was the first time he had heard.

They had talked with Fan Jia King in his bedchamber for two hours. Feng Ming not only obtained permission to leave early tomorrow morning; moreover, his had totally victory over Li King.

He felt gratified as he walked outside of the inner palace. Tong general, Xia Guan and Lie-er were waiting outside and at once ran to welcome him.

"Prince, what happens?"

"Oh, when I went to see Fan Jia King and accidental met Ruo Yan Li King there..."

"What?" Tong general shocked, quickly asked, "That Ruo Yan, did he tried to embarrass Your Highness?"

Xia Guan also asked, "Did he trying prevented Your Highness from leaving Fan Jia?"

Their faces were very serious, nervously stressed looking at Feng Ming. They were deeply

regretted for not insisted in accompany Feng Ming.

"This..." Feng Ming looked calmly at them then hugged his stomach and burst into laughter, "Haha, so hilarious. Let continue when we're inside the carriage, onto the carriage now. "

When they were all inside the carriage, Feng Ming told everyone what he had gone through. The more he talk the more he felt ironic of the situation, especially when he was referring to Ruo Yan awkwardness and was fiercely laughed almost rolled over the carriage floor.

"What, don't you find it funny too?"

After laughed for a long time, then he noticed the three audiences sat there, bewildered glancing at each other.

The three of them looked at each other, Xia Guan frowned asked, "The solution was so mystical like that. Could Your Highness advise where you learnt that?"

Tong general distressed, "The art of mathematics should be national treasure, why Crown Prince revealed to Li King who ambition was to rule over the world?"

"What your servant fears most, with Crown Prince's capacity exposed, Ruo Yan would not let you go now." Lie-er bitten his lower lip while gently let the few words out.

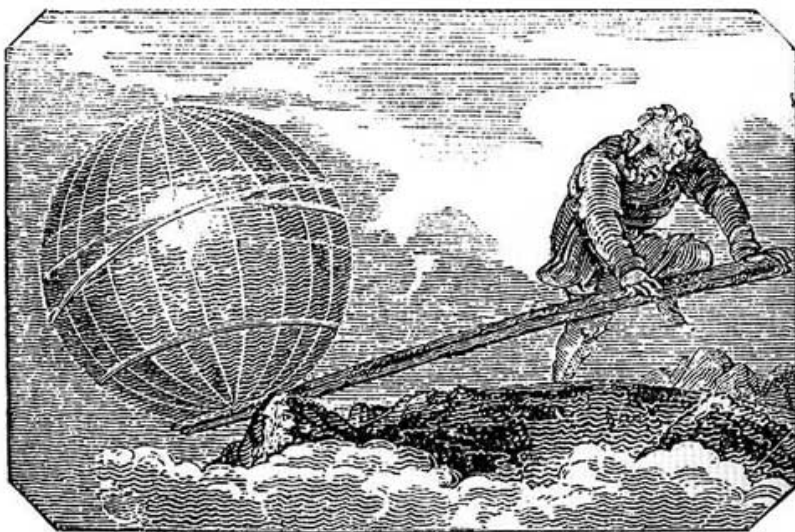
Feng Ming was in a good mood; those men concerned did not take to heart. He patted the chest said, "You need not fear, I am completely knowledgeable, the mathematics of volumes using water is the only surface knowledge, and even Li Kingdom did learn, it is not important. Anyway, scientific knowledge right from the beginning had always been shares with each other. As for Ruo Yan Li King..." He then thought about Ruo Yan behaviours, Feng Ming found his body trembling, self-comforted himself, "However, we will be on the road and leaving Fan Jia tomorrow, if he dared to come to Xi-Rei molested me, Duke Rong will certainly slaughtered him!"

"What? Molested?" The three chorus surprise asked.

Feng Ming would rather be killed and refused to let them know what a shameful incidence, hastened to deny, "No, no, you heard it wrong."



Hiero's Crown & Archimedes



Archimedes Lever Principle



Chapter XV

Part II

When they were back to the camp and spread the good news of the departure, to return home tomorrow, it was boisterous event. Of course, they had been gone from their homeland for a long time, whose would not be a little homesick.

They dispatched a servant to tell the third princess that the journey was on schedule and will see her at the city gate tomorrow morning. Together they will be departing for Xi-Rei.

On that day everyone ate and drank until they were bursting, Tong general was enthusiastic so he taken out the two good wine jars that was gifted from Fan Jia King. Xia Guan saw the bottles was hypnotized, opened one for him.

Chiu Lian's group also joined the drinking party for a while; they were played and laughed very loudly with Feng Ming, of course pressured him drinking. Feng Ming had bad experienced of drinking wine and the aftermath that is awaked in bed with Lie-er. His was sure wine the root that altered personalities and never want to take another cup again. However, it was impossible to refuse Chiu Lian's naughty group, with their devilish stubbornness, furthermore Lie-er sat beside also encouraging him, so they poured Feng Ming at least three or four cups by the end of

the night.

He was a natural low in tolerant for alcohol; only to drink a tiny amount would immediately not able to distinguish which directions from the others.

After being drunk for the day, it was midnight when he woken up but still drowsily. His eyes opened, Feng Ming knew something was not quite right, he looked around the vicinity; evidently, it seems Lie-er located beside him and his eyes not completely closed.

"You ... why are you on my bed?" Feng Ming scolded.

Lie-er's eyes winked innocently, "Your Highness should not being unreasonable. Your servant helped you into the room but pulled down by you, made a tearful scene. I felt obligated to climb up the bed."

Feng Ming was angry and yelled, "Had I not advised you before if I ever got drunk, you just have to throw cold water on my face to wake me up?"

Lie-er softly shook his head, "that is not possible in this cold weather, Your Highness would surely get sick."

"If it made me sick, always better than have you lay with me on the bed."

"We're departed tomorrow and if Yours Highness indeed fell sick. Do you want to remain here?"

"This ..." Feng Ming choked.

"Moreover, Lie-er did followed yours instruction, as you can sees, even the inner garments has not been removed." Lie-er teased, held Feng Ming' hand and pulled it toward to his body for inspection.

Feng Ming hastened to swing arm and pushed Lie-er away from him, "no touching, and no touching."

Lie-er's face suddenly changed and made a moaning sound, Feng Ming was not sure that he had hurt Lie-er when pushed the younger man away, he hastily asked, "Are you OK?"

"Don't worries." Lie-er bitten his lips and shook his head softly.

When Feng Ming heard the younger man replied. He was sceptical and inevitable doubtful as he thought over the other man dubious background.

"Are you sick?"

"No."

"Why are you nursing the chest like that, show me."

"Nothing, please Your Highness be self-respect."

It unbelievable that the other man turned around and reminded Feng Ming should be self-respect, of course, Feng Ming would not listen, he was sure that Lie-er had concealed something from him so he snorted, "I even want to see more now." He instantly grasped Lie-er hands in which he learnt from Duke Rong "how to take hostage" and tied Lie-er up on the bed.

He heard Lie-er made a few sounds, his face become paler and finally begged for mercy, "Alright, your servant will let Prince see, but do not asked, for I would never reveal anything." He lets go of the hands that covered his chest.

Feng Ming's palm entered touching inside the garment, found the area was hard, like it was wraps in thick layers of bandages.

Feng Ming surprised, "Are you injure?"

Lie-er nodded.

"When did you get injured? Who had hurt you? "

Lie-er watched Feng Ming, his eyes were amused, like it said *'see, you already started*

questioning me.'

"Bugger, the blood is seeping through." Feng Ming screamed.

Lie-er used one hand to silence him, looking left and right for a while and then said, "Crown Prince Your Highness, please do not shout."

"It needs to be rebinding again."

Lie-er moaned softly, "The herbs are in your servant's room."

Feng Ming immediately volunteered to help, "Let me do it."

"Do not let anyone knows."

"Alright..." Suddenly he remembered the illicit status of Lie-er, the wounds on him maybe it was...

Lie-er instinct was very good, right away able to guess what had happened, turned seriously to Feng Ming said, "Your Highness is suspicious of me, right?"

"No, no ..."

"Prince," Lie-er stared at Feng Ming and his tone sound truthful, "Please believe me Your Highness, Lie-er absolutely will not harm Crown Prince."

Feng Ming saw his eyes began to ripple with tears, immediately softened his heart and nodded, "I believe you. You certainly will not harm me. Yes, I will secretly go to get the medicine for you." He instantly jumped off the bed, took his cloak and went out.

There was no snowfall that night, but the cold winds were still blowing through the garments. Feng Ming had just comes out of bed and opened the door, instantly struck by the cold wind and chilly shivered.

He walked softly into Lie-er room, searching through the hand luggage, he found the herbs but also grotesque objects.

'Uh, may be they are some sort of spies "weapons" of this era.'

Lie-er has an inner born talent that make others to trust him, Feng Ming was wholeheartedly believe the younger man and did not bothered to reflect further as he took the herbs and walked away.

In amid this type of weather many people asleep quietly and comfortable in bed. Only the crown prince was sneaking outside and probably would have mistaken for a thief...

When he had passed a corner, his eyes were blurred and suddenly a tall man covered in black appeared before him.

Feng Ming was terrified, almost had a heart attack, before he could open his mouth to scream, the man in black's palm had reached out, immediately block his mouth and silence him.

The tall man looked proudly strong and full of menace. Moreover, the man had dared to break into the crown prince Xi-Rei's camp at night, and attacked the prince of Xi-Rei. Who possible could be crazy maniac and insolent person?

What a tragedy yesterday he should not be so conceited, competitive with that aging strong tiger and greatly displeased him. Feng Ming greatly regretted of his action, now had fallen into Ruo Yan's hands, how will Ruo Yan tortured him? Just that thought he fainted.

The man in black's one palm gagged Feng Ming while the other hand had easily twisted his arms behind. Feng Ming could not able fight and forced to lean into the other man.

The man stared into the frightened eyes of Feng Ming; aggressively bitten his ear lightly, laughed and asked softly, "Missing me?"

The words reached his ears, indeed, was very earth shattering.

Feng Ming's hands which twisted behind suddenly free, he turned around facing the black man

and launched aggressive attacks, gnashed his teeth, "Rong Tian! You big jerk! You..."

He did not complete his speech instantly Duke Rong had covered his mouth.

Feng Ming was nearly scared to death, his tears appeared overflow, and his fists could not stop hitting Duke Rong. The other man pulled down the veil, his handsome face appeared like those in Feng Ming's dreams and used his lips to cover the angry words of Feng Ming chided.

The sweet flavour tasted that had not been savoured for a long time, now once again between their lips spreads.

The furious attacked and bites had dominantly occupied inside the mouths. Duke Rong kisses finally soothed the fears and angers deep inside the heart of Feng Ming.

They kissed until both were out of breath. Duke Rong held onto Feng Ming's fists until it had stopped strikes him, Feng Ming was satisfied and leaned onto Duke Rong's chest.

The night was quiet. Duke Rong pulled Feng Ming aside to a corner.

"How did you come here all of a sudden?"

"I'd received from intelligence that Ruo Yan had secretly arrived in Fan Jia, he is too dangerous. How am I supposedly thrown you at that wild wolf?" Duke Rong laughed, lovingly pampered

Feng Ming and pressed him tighter.

"What about Xi-Rei?"

"No one knew I am here. If we quickly returned to Xi-Rei there should be no problem. Once we returned to Xi-Rei, there will be a coronation immediately. "

"Tong General and Xia Guan don't know either."

"It is not necessary, no one should be informed that I had secretly come here to Fan Jia, otherwise it will be very dangerous."

Feng Ming deliberately queried, "So how are you going to hide, huh? I must let you know since I am a fool, I will unable to hide you. "

"How could Prince be stupid? The mathematics art of Your Highness had made many people astonishment with wonders." Duke Rong politely laughed, intimately bitten Feng Ming's ear, "About hiding, it would not be easy, I'll just hiding in Prince's blanket that should be alright. Let go, *'a moment of spring's night worth thousands of gold'*, these are the words that Your Highness has taught me." He pulled Feng Ming along as they walking towards the prince room.

'In bed?'

Feng Ming overjoyed to be reunited with Duke Rong that his mind distracted. It was until they arrived at the door that he sudden remembered Lie-er still on his bed, instantly troubled and the body coldly sweated.

Chapter XVI

Feng Ming saw Duke Rong was about to push the door open, just as if a cattail had stomped on; he rushed forward and stood blocking the front door.

"Do not go in!"

Duke Rong oddly glanced, "Why?"

"Because... because..." Feng Ming tried to fights against the bottomless eyes of Duke Rong; he dared not use his hands to wipes cold sweat on his forehead, "Because my bed is not big enough, not enough room for two."

He looked tensely at Duke Rong, afraid the other man become suspicious.

Duke Rong stared scrutiny at the door for a while, immediately revealed a gentle smile that enraptured the heart, "I see." He advanced one-step forward, pressed Feng Ming between his body and the door, gently stroked the red berries lips, lowered his head and gave a quick kiss before embraced Feng Ming in the chest.

"In this weather, if you are standing outside any longer, you will be frozen into icicle." Duke Rong tone was overflowing magnetism made Feng Ming loosen his vigilance, "if the bed is not big enough then do not be troubled, you could sleep on me, should be alright." His leg kicked one and the door instantly opened.

Duke Rong undeniably picked Feng Ming up and strode into the room.

When they came inside, the warm air had enveloped them, the smoke of incense burnt by Chiu Lian every day in the room was floating as layers in the air, and they were in front of a big bed in which Lie-er was located.

"It is a large bed." Duke Rong lowered his head to look at Feng Ming who laying very still on his arms.

Feng Ming's heart beaten so fast as if it could jumped out, face pale and smiles miserably, "You think it's big that should be fine." He was wonders that if there were three people to sleep on the bed, would that be dreadfully crammed...

On the bed, the tassel from hanging curtains covered the bed. Feng Ming's eyes watched Duke Rong step by step towards the bed and knew a storm was brewing.

'Oh God, hoping Lie-er's smart enough, upon heard noise from outside, the sound of Duke Rong and me had escaped. Please be sure the bed would definitely be empty, if not I'll die.'

His eyes were closed tightly praying, a fussy sound from the bed echoed through the curtain
"Your Highness finally is back, why had you gone for so long?"

When the sound echoed, Duke Rong stopped immediately before bed. Coldly glancing over the curtain, he slowly lowered his head condescending look at Feng Ming.

Feng Ming saw his glanced and overwhelmed terrifying, this is what it called **'caught red handed'** in bed, though he and Lie-er did not committed adultery but Duke Rong would never believe him.

Jealous men since ancient time had done many terrible things so Feng Ming fluttered all over.

Duke Rong faint laughed and gently asked, "Feng Ming, are you cold? Why are you shaking like this?"

The fainted smile seen on Duke Rong, compared to the dangers he had been facing was hundred

times more dangerous.

Such a tragedy, this was what it means by 'the silence before the storm'. Feng Ming indeed closed his eyes, retracted like an ostrich on Duke Rong's hands. Duke Rong laughed and placed Feng Ming on the bed before his hand tugged the veil down.

Lie-er dressed in a very thin garment, laying on the bed casually, his head was leaning against the whitely jade arms, his black pupil immediately hit the sharply intense gaze of Duke Rong.

Feng Ming held his breath; the mind struggled, *'should I help Lie-er? To save him would mean more misunderstandings would pile up, but if I do not save ...'*

"Why are you here?" Duke Rong sounded very cold.

Feng Ming felt unbearable at the tremendous pressure almost crying; closed his eyes tightly, shook his head and yelled, "I don't know anything. I don't know anything!"

Lie-er was extremely calmed, pushed the blanket off and jumped out the bed, knelt obediently at the foot of Duke Rong and whispered, "Lie-er greeting Master. Today is the last day in Fan Jia, Lie-er was not reassured of His Highness safety so accompanied him through the night." He carefully looked up at Duke Rong and saw the man's face seemed to be in good mood, and giggled, "Lie-er had done nothing, the Crown Prince was belonging to Master, Lie-er would not dare to go beyond."

"You dare. You already are an adult, yet always laughing and playing, why can't you have a little maturity like your brother..." Duke Rong coldly snorted, "Had you got everything settled in Yong Yin?"

"After Lie-er received Master's instructions, I had quietly arranged for my departure, even after disappearance, no one has been suspicious. Yong Yin King believed that your servant was really died."

"Ump, you had spied in Yong Yin for many years, it is time to return." Duke Rong nodded slowly, turned to Feng Ming, who looked like an idiot on the bed said, "Feng Ming, it is time that you should know, I had two very good helpers to protect and by your side. Rong Hu, you have met, and this is Lie-er, despite being unruly naughty, but he was also smart and good at improvisation. For these two people beside you, I am a little eased."

...

...

Boom!

In the room suddenly echoed a slightly muffled sound of surprise from Duke Rong, "Feng Ming? Feng Ming? "

"Master, the Crown Prince felt threatened and had fainted..."

The next day the envoys of Xi-Rei had taken the third princess and made their journey out of Fan Jia.

The crown prince of Xi-Rei suddenly was unwell, kept laying inside his carriage, although his body was sick the group still departed. Everyone heard the prince also in a bad mood, inside the carriage noises of occasionally taunted, cursed and sounds of broken utensils were echoed, evermore surprised there also sudden resonance sound of smacked against the skin.

Everyone thought that the prince's companion, Lie-er who sat inside the carriage, inevitably encountered those abuses. However, every time the man stepped out of the carriage, there was no bruises to be found, it was extremely unexpected.

It was like that for three to four days, the angry yelled, brawled and sound of fallen objects were less gradually, and instead it was replaced with constantly moaned sounds that made everyone groan embarrassment. The carriages travelled through winter season, the vague sounds of moaned was not very clear, although it was heard only from outside one particular vehicle made everyone felt itching inside.

"Chiu Lian, do you hear, it just ..."

"Just what? Lie-er is so beautiful; it not surprising the crown prince's heart was taken. "

"I've no problem with it, but afraid that someone..."

Chiu Xing punched rightly on Chiu Yue's shoulder, "Don't you dared teasing me, Prince with Lie-er is fine, and it got nothing to do with me?"

Chiu Yue laughed and implied, "Of course, Chiu Xing our lady is blameless. Ah...but when we returned to Xi-Rei, how Duke Rong would react to this situation. "

On other side, Tong general could not hold back any longer and searched for Xia Guan.

"Xia Guan teacher, we have been on the road for four days, the Prince had not once stepped outside of the carriage, this..."

Xia Guan waved his fan causing his beard to rise, "The roads were desolate and quiet, Lie-er who is a rare beauty, Tong General should not prevent the Prince of his entertaining?"

"Nevertheless, if this situation is keep continuing... I'm just afraid for the Prince's body."

"Hehe, regard to the prince's body, since Xia Guan is here, Tong General should not be worries."

The group continuously travelled for two days and nights to speed up their crossing over the

lands, finally the embassy leaved the border of Fan Jia and entered into Yong Yin. It would take at least seven more days before they could return to Xi-Rei.

Chapter XVII

Part I

When they stepped inside Yong Yin kingdom, the news arrived that Fan Jia King died from his incurable illness.

When everyone received the news, all amazed Xia Guan prediction become reality. The third princess heard the tragic news so constantly grieved. She cried and fainted several times in the carriage. Feng Ming had been struggled to escape from Duke Rong harassment, and finally able to make an excuse and off seeing the third princess for consoled on her bereavement.

"Duchess Aunt, please do not be grief-stricken like this, Fan Jia King had been sick for many days, this ... this ..." Feng Ming saw the tears in third princess' eyes, he become speechless.

First, Feng Ming had little impression of Fan Jia King; second, everyone knew the death of Fan

Jia King was extremely odd, even he was going to tell third princess everything that he knew, it will only create more problems since this was not a good time to track down whom responsible for her father death.

Regardless of time-period, the evil scheming would never end; human had always been plotting all the time.

'It was truly sorrowful.'

Feng Ming comforted the third princess as he thought back of his own plight, without Duke Rong, he probably have been devoured as many times by someone, suddenly felt sympathy toward her flight and give a long sighed.

The third princess had suffered and cried for a long time, upon seeing Feng Ming understanding, she able to regain her emotional back and wiped her tears away, "Father King died, it is useless to cries. I had been thinking that for the last moment of his life I could not be by his side, indeed was disloyalty. To be born in the royal family, there are many regrets; no matter how much tears were fallen, would not be enough. Oh, Crown Prince should also take care of your own health; I heard that Prince caught cold these days, staying in the carriage didn't come out. "

Feng Ming blushed, lowered his head muffled, "Yes, you're right, next time I will certainly be wear more clothes, and not catch a cold again." In his mind, he swore at Duke Rong, who was bottomless insatiable man, from morning to night with his abundant vigour.

After comforted the third princess for a while he finally hurriedly slipped out of her carriage.

When he just stepped down, Tong general and Xia Guan instantly moved forward to welcome him.

"We'll travel for about an hour more to meet the border official of Yong Yin Zhang Qian, he had already prepared the banquet to welcome Your Highness."

"That's right, finally able to leave the boundaries of Fan Jia." Feng Ming remembered the consequence of previous enthusiastic reception from Zhang Qian, urgently looked at Xia Guan said, "Xia Guan teacher, this time even if Zhang Qian drags me off to drink with him, you certainly make sure he will be stop right away, otherwise there will be a few more Lie-er suddenly appeared."

"A few more Lie-er, is good right? Your Highness would not be lonely on the road." Tong general happily laughed, after that, he lowered his voice and said seriously, "I only hope that the Crown Prince is take care of your body, too much pleasure, is not a principle for a King."

Feng Ming momentary shocked, immediately awaken and laughed sadly, "Yes, yes, it is not the principle for a King.", *'These words of yours should be spoken to someone called Duke Rong Jerk.'*

They stood there talked for sometimes before each sequential stepped back into their carriages, once again quickly continuing on the road.

Feng Ming climbed inside the carriage, instantly got pick up, one rough hand entered from the neck and stroked the soft skin, and moving downward. Feng Ming grinded his teeth and aggressively said, "Are you not bored? Doing the same things all-day, now that we are out of Fan Jia and no longer in danger, it is a good idea just to kick you outside the carriage."

A deep male voice beside the ear lazily said, "If I get bored one day, you will be cries to dead."

"I thought I wanted to cry now, look, what shape are you marked on my neck?" He could no longer endure this harassment so with one elbow hit the tall body from behind.

The attacked apparently no effect at all, only a few groans heard but its sounded fakes.

"Oh, don't punches too hard or your hand will get hurts."

"Hn."

Lie-er saw their games for these last few days, so just leisurely sat at the corner reading a book.

Duke Rong's hand had been practicing and skilfully slipped beneath his body for several metres.

"Do not touch!"

"Do not touch you, are you going to let me enter." Duke Rong intonation was mesmerized charming, persuaded him.

Feng Ming shook his head, revealing a terrified face. "No, it hurts."

"We always come back to the pain." Duke Rong frowned, "Are you never going to let me touch you?"

"Anyway so long as I feel pain, you will have to endure."

"Sitting in this carriage and always collided into you, who could able to tolerate?"

"You could take Lie-er as an example."

"Ha-ha." Duke Rong glanced fiercely over Lie-er who sitting near to the outside area, "He dares?"

Lie-er looked like he very attentive reading, but his ear was not idle at all, immediately put the book down, reverently bowed his head replied, "I would not dare." Then he sneakily laughed.

Feng Ming face even redder, punched once more into Duke Rong's abdomen, "if you continued

recklessly, I'll scream aloud, then everyone will know that you had throw Xi-Rei away and alone running here."

"Tsk, because of whom that I had travelled thousands of miles and secretly entered Fan Jia?"

Duke Rong and Feng Ming continued their game noisily for a while, before peacefully returned to a more serious topic, "Leaving Fan Jia, we must even a little more carefully. If Ruo Yan indeed wanted to attack you, it is likely that he will choose the border of Yong Yin to make his move. "

"I am not afraid." Feng Ming proudly responded and laughed slyly, "Since you're here, and with Tong General soldiers, why should I be afraid. Everything already supported and shelter by you."

"You're a Prince; you should be set an example for the troops..."

"When we're back to Xi-Rei, I'm not anymore." Feng Ming carelessly shrugged, "Oh, the great funeral for Fan Jia King, of course Fan Jia must have a great showcases of battle for the king throne, who do you think will win the throne of Fan Jia?"

"Who do you want it to be?"

"Whoever reigned does not matter with me." Feng Ming took hold of Duke Rong's hand as it started wandering down his beneath garments, scolded and eyes glared then continues, "It would be better if it was not Gui Sen, he made a deal with Ruo Yan over me, all thanks to my great

deduction that I have escaped his evil plan."

Duke Rong was rarely in agreement with Feng Ming views, nodded said "I do not think it would be Gui Sen."

"Why?" Feng Ming thought it was weird and turned around, "Is Gui Sen not the First Consort? Moreover, he got Ruo Yan supports, not able to become Fan Jia new King is surely strange. Unless...there another mischievous game."

Duke Rong's face was delighted with smugness, bitten his earlobe, "Who told him to have nerve show-off with my man?"

"Hn" Feng Ming snorted coldly and a look of contempt, "No need to fool me, you are a jerk, never once did you put my need ahead?"

"I'm never worried about you?" the self-pity face was not suitable for Duke Rong, it had the opposite affect seems to be treacherous. He started laughing humorously and once again solemn, "Gui Sen indeed is dangerous but from what I know, the Second Consort was even more treacherous."



Chapter XVII

Part II

"I'm never worried about you?" the self-pity face was not suitable for Duke Rong, it had the opposite affect seems to be treacherous. He started laughing humorously and once again solemn, "Gui Sen indeed is dangerous but from what I know, the Second Consort was even more treacherous."

"Huh? That the one Royal Consort I have yet met." Feng Ming interested so he asked quickly, "Fan Jia Consorts already had two handsome men. I wonder how Long Tian? "

"He is very uniquely handsome, only slightly lesser than me." Duke Rong immodest replied.

He chest side took another punched from Feng Ming.

Duke Rong shook his head, "Tsk, you're getting out of hand lately; see how I'll punish you when we're back in Xi-Rei." Since the day Feng Ming had fainted, he constantly pestered, consequently, Duke Rong received a few arms punched and legs kicked, were indeed are sweet agonies.

Feng Ming no longer had any fears for him, upturned his nose, "Since I'd become an ambassador to Fan Jia, I have discovered my charms, so unique and supremely educated, compared to you

I'm much more superior." He struggled to get out of Duke Rong's arms, turned to look at the man and smiled, "You need quickly begging me to teach you, since I'm the only one who know the art of mathematics, if you don't want to be embarrass when seeing Third Princess."

In the carriage it was moderately warm temperature like spring, Feng Ming face slightly flushed, his garments distorted by Duke Rong which revealing a slender white neck, even displayed a pink hickey that previously sucked by Duke Rong.

He saw the other man thin lips slightly raised, his speech surely contained with goofy idea, Duke Rong had familiar with Feng Ming postured, but could not stop himself from being draw to the attraction, eyes filled with appreciation as he pulled Feng Ming to his chest and loved him in his embraces.

"Yes, I beg you."

"Hn, if you wanted me to teach art of mathematics, you need to kneel and bows to receive your teacher."

"I do not need you to teach me mathematics." Duke Rong whispered, "I just need you promised me, never to leave my side again."

Feng Ming frozen, instantly felt his nose tingles of sour moment, bitten his teeth and used his sleeve rubbing the eyes, seriously said, "The villain sues his victim before he himself is

prosecuted, it was you who forced me to go to Fan Jia but now said that I left you."

"Yes, I was wrong." Duke Rong readily admitted.

"It is so boring inside here, oh right, we talked about the Second Consort of Fan Jia, you said he was handsome and instantly changed the subject, quickly tells me more."

"Yes, An He Prince." When Duke Rong associated in politics, he instantly mental alerted and his eyes glowed, "Long Tian in Fan Jia while not active, demonstrated anything outstanding and have always been wrapped up with his personal wealth fares, made other think that he was happy with his lot, except he is a genius. In fact, those that hidden themselves usually the most dangerous predators. If I were in Ruo Yan shoes, I would not bet on someone who shows off like Gui Sen but fostered on Long Tian a hidden gem. "

"However, when fostered a puppet, would it better to choose someone who have no talent?"

Duke Rong looked approving at Feng Ming, "Not bad. Do you know Long Tian background?"

"His Background?" Feng Ming shook his head; his dark eyes glittered focuses on Duke Rong, the other man could not stopped his lips from smiling, bent down and kissed him softly.

Feng Ming pushed Duke Rong away and frowned said, "Enough, hurry up and tell me, and not to keep people guessing."

Duke Rong complained, "Oh, I rued the day I let you go to Fan Jia. Just one trip and your guts had amplified." Pretend shook his head before continues, "Long Tian is a talent foreign traveller. One day he arrived in Fan Jia for exchange studies, claiming to be from Yong Yin, and then married Second Princess and became the Second Royal Consort. "

"Good story."

"An Xun and Gui Sen were suspicious of his background and secretly dispatched spies for investigation, but they could not found any clues."

"What if he did not have a background only has talents like me?" Feng Ming was frankly spoken and without shame being boastful.

Duke Rong shook his head, eyes seemed like penetrate through thick curtain and views the distance, "Long Tian status as talents scholar, so he not from a prominent family, but able to gain Second Princess favoured, even become Second Consort of Fan Jia, must have someone powerful supported from behind. I believed from the beginning he was Li Kingdom citizen."

"Li Kingdom?" Feng Ming stammered aghast and instantly considered, "If that is the case, when Long Tian become King, would that not mean without anyone knowing it Ruo Yan have a kingdom within his hand? Nevertheless... whoever a man is, once ascended the throne would not be easy controlled, so even if Long Tian indeed is a Li Kingdom citizen."

"Ruo Yan mastery in the use of medicine, if indeed want to send a puppet to Fan Jia and get a kingdom, surely he had already drugged Long Tian to have him under control? The toxic Man She on Fan Jia King of course ordered of Ruo Yan. The purpose was to make Long Tian reign a bit early."

Feng Ming slurred, "Oh oh, it seems we had blamed the wrong person, Gui Sen. Tong General saw the Third Princess, had vaguely talked of conspiracy and mentioned Gui Sen. Third Princess must disclosed this to Fan Jia King. If we considered this point, we accidentally helped Long Tian. "

When Feng Ming finished his speculation, Duke Rong suddenly paralysed. Feng Ming laying on his arms, immediately recognized something wrong so he turned and asked, "What's the matter?"

"You're correct, Xi-Rei indeed had helped Ruo Yan ..." Duke Rong face gloomy becomes unsightly, as if he had ran into a problem, whispered, "Ruo Yan ... Long Tian...Xi-Rei embassy..."

Duke Rong severely contemplated, Feng Ming waited docile and not dare to interrupt and obediently watched the other man thinking alone.

"It must be true then!" A beam of light flashed in his head, Duke Rong head tilted up, "There is deception."

"Deception!" Feng Ming scratched his head.

Duke Rong nodded, "Yes, in fact we have a spy." When he finished, immediately Lie-er who sat reading lowered his scrolls down and lifted his head up.

Feng Ming frowned and doubt, "Spy? How could we possibly have a spy? At that time, Tong General did not know that he helped Long Tian."

"I should have seen this." Duke Rong mused for a moment and asked, "Feng Ming, you should think back a little, why you believe that Gui Sen the one that poisoned Fan Jia King?"

"I don't know, anyway, with events had happened like that, so I believe if Fan Jia King indeed was poison, definitely Gui Sen would have done it. Perhaps, because he being hateful." Feng Ming stuck his tongue out.

"It is Xia Guan." A voice from behind him said, Feng Ming turned to look and saw that Lie-er also joined the discussion.

Lie-er looked thoughtful, "During the discussion when Xia Guan told everyone the news, made sure we built a mental defence and suddenly hostile toward Gui Sen. Naturally, Gui Sen had his own agenda toward the Prince, which is also true."

"Xia Guan teacher?" Feng Ming stirred and shook his head, "No way, how could he be a spy?"

Rong Tian, Xia Guan teacher had always been the Royal Family pharmacist? A Veteran Official he could not be a spy."

Duke Rong negative spoken, "He is a spy, they usually sneaked into the enemy country at very young ages. Like Lie-er, if I had not summoned him back to protect you, he probably for the rest of his life staying with Yong Yin King."

Feng Ming turned his head to look at Lie-er, who only smiled slightly and nodded at him.

"But, Xia Guan teacher..."

Duke Rong patted on Feng Ming's shoulder and gently said, "Although, Second Consort had not ventured outside, but with Xia Guan capacity should able to trace his movement, when you on the mission in Fan Jia, had he once mention to you of Long Tian?"

Feng Ming recalled carefully, but without any results promptly nodded and looks slightly disappointed. He suddenly remembered something, looked up and said, "That not right, when we went to the Third Princess' Mansion, Xia Guan had clearly wanted me to destroy the marriage proposal of Ruo Yan. If he is a loyal Li Kingdom citizen, why should he done that? "

"In this case your servant can guess." Lie-er lowered his eyes and replied, "First, Ruo Yan has Long Tian, if the proposal failed, and it does not matter. Moreover, he proposed to Third

Princess was a mean to conceal his presence in Fan Jia at this critical stage, and with Long Tian finalised their conspiracy. Otherwise, others would suspicious of his purpose to Fan Jia, hence avoiding any hassle. Second, Xia Guan teacher did not expect Your Highness to have such aptitudes in mathematics. He used this incident to make Crown Prince into a fool and even help to succeed the marriage proposal."

This assumption made sense; naturally, no one would guess that Feng Ming has such abilities, which made the world-renowned mathematics professor Dong Fang Tian and third princess kowtowed in admiration?

Duke Rong nodded in agreement, "Ruo Yan strategy is very good, not officially married the Third Princess but able to gain the throne of Fan Jia, and helped Long Tian to become the King. Whatever the results, Fan Jia have become a piece of fat meat in his mouth."

Feng Ming thought of his trust to the man who is a spy, Feng Ming moaned sorrowful, he raised the last doubt, "If Ruo Yan has grasped his victory, why should he ally with Gui Sen? "

"Uh, Yours Highness Crown Prince," Lie-er smiled, "you should not forget, Ruo Yan allied with Gui Sen was told by Xia Guan."

Feng Ming was still melancholy, Duke Rong knew the other man struggled to accept the situation so he wrapped his arms around him and caution said, "We will not immediately condemned Xia Guan crime. If he indeed is the spy, he certainly will try to attack you at the

border of Yong Yin, and then we shall have evidences."

"Attack me?" Feng Ming saw their serious faces; felt chilled and shuddered, "Why should he attack me? I'm only a..."

Duke Rong gently kissed on the red berry lips; smiled and warmly said, "When Ruo Yan saw you, whatever he intentions was good or bad, he would have lured you to spend a night with him. Now that he discovered your amazing abilities in mathematics, so he makes every efforts to take you back to his country and strengthening Li Kingdom knowledge."

"Anyway, he would ensure that no matter what, not to let Your Highness and Duke Rong to meet again, if not his ambition to rule over the kingdoms will be difficult to achieve." Lie-er beside them added his opinion.

Feng Ming hastily patted his chest and bragged, "Luckily, he was not aware of my art of war strategies and the rice terraces, otherwise he probably personally lead troops and advanced Xi-Rei to take me back to his country?"

When he just finished, everyone laughed.

Their laughs were not over when the carriage sudden came to a hold.

Xia Guan voice come from outside the carriage, “Your Highness, the Border Official of Yong Yin, Zhang Qian has been waited here for some time, pleaded Crown Prince to come out the carriage.”



Chapter XVIII

Xia Guan voice come from outside the carriage, “Your Highness, the Border Official of Yong Yin, Zhang Qian has been waited here for some time, pleaded Crown Prince to come out the carriage.”

Everyone inside reflected looks at each other and simultaneously holds their laughter.

Duke Rong bent down, "He would not dare to make a move right here, only when he persuaded you to travel alone with him to another place, immediately recognized that he have a malicious intention."

Feng Ming nodded and taken Lie-er down the carriage.

"Crown Prince, Zhang Qian had waited a long time." Xia Guan saw Feng Ming stepped down, laughed, point his finger in front, proudly said, "Since Your Highness demonstrated your capability in Fan Jia; the ceremony rituals from another country toward Xi-Rei embassy are getting better. This time the Officials even travelled fifteen miles out of the city to wait for Your Highness; this of course made Xi-Rei people very proud. "

Feng Ming heard Duke Rong speculation, so he carefully observed Xia Guan and absently nodded.

Ahead of them, Zhang Qian led his group of subordinate officials to welcome their group.

"It had been long since last we met, Prince is well?" Zhang Qian smiled and fastened his hands, "Yong Yin Zhang Qian is here, respectfully waiting for Your Highness for some time."

"Excuse me for being troubled Your Excellency."

"For Prince's accommodation, Zhang Qian had fully prepared and the banquet arrangements also set, pleaded Crown Prince to take the horse into the city."

Everyone travelled on the roads for many days, of course, immediately wanted to enter the city to have some excitement.

That evening, the feast was a great show again. Zhang Qian was a great host. Feng Ming led Tong general and Xia Guan to participate, Duke Rong of course still hidden in Feng Ming bedroom, commanded Lie-er, "You must follow His Highness, should pay a little more attention and be on guarded."

Lie-er was smart; he stood by Feng Ming side and refused alcohol for him. He was anomaly handsome, every movement was seductive that stirred many hearts thus had held attention of most guests; in fact, he had taken some of the glory from Feng Ming.

Xia Guan drank a lot for his face turned red, gently pulled behind Feng Ming sleeve and secretly whispered, "Lie-er acting really odd tonight, the Crown Prince must be careful."

Feng Ming compliant nodded his head but thought, *'I should be more careful with you.'*

Lie-er crowded by Zhang Qian's guests, only continuous monitored Xia Guan from the distance and saw the man still talked to Feng Ming within the room, turned with confidence to deal with a bowl after bowl of liquor.

Xia Guan looked outside for inspection before said, "Prince, I would like to discuss something with Your Highness privately. It is best if we went outside for a bit."

If it was yesterday, Feng Ming without doubt would immediately followed him outside within seconds, but at this moment he shook his head, softly replied, "It is dark and cold outside,

whatever Xia Guan teacher want to talks, here should be alright. "

"Kukuku" Xia Guan stroked his beard and tipsy said, "The Third Princess despite is well known for her beauty nevertheless still not known as the most beautiful woman in world. Does Your Highness know who titled the Most Beautiful Woman in the world? "

Feng Ming blinked, shook his head.

Xia Guan takes wine to express meaning, sighed and looked at the stars twinkling outside the door and sadly replied, "A singing hostess (like geisha) of Fan Jia, her name is Mei Ji. She was formerly from an aristocracy family; at fourteen praised by the world as the Most Beautiful Woman. Unfortunately, her father displeased Fan Jia King, the men of the family beheaded and the women were sold, became hostesses."

Feng Ming watched the dancers before him, and remembered some movie or television series that he often seen, illustrated the tragic life of singer hostess and sighed deeply, "It's pitiful."

"However, with her education and beauty, just a year, she had a lot of admirer from four corners of the world; moreover she earned enough money to repurchase herself." Xia Guan indeed was a good actor as he told the story his face was sad and made suitable expression, he frowned continue, "However, she remained as hostess singer, and unwilling to leave her lowly singer status."

"Ah? Why is that? "

Xia Guan smiled and said softly, "Many asked and she said, 'men in this world are the same, there is no one I could committed for life.' Whether she left the life of the hostess nothing would have changes. "

Feng Ming shook his head said, "That way of thinking was too extreme, I suppose she would change her mind sometime later after thoroughly contemplate, probably set her eyes upon a man she likes and settle down."

"Your Highness is correct. Mei Ji known as the world First Beauty and continues met many men who wishes for her hand, she consistently refused them. However, one day an anonymous young man asked to see her. "

Feng Ming interrupted for his curiosity suddenly aroused, "That nameless man must have stolen her hearts right?"

"That is correct." Xia Guan stroked his beard and nodded, "That man mediated in front of Mei Ji for two hours, without a word immediately left."

"What? He does not speak a word. So how could he have stolen her heart, could he be dumb?"

Feng Ming frowned, cocked his head and asked.

Xia Guan laughed, "Hahaha, the Crown Prince thought really interesting. Although, the young man did not speak a word, but Mei Ji had spoken something before he departed. "

"What did she told him?"

"She said 'I was wrong'."

"Wrong?"

"Yes, she stared into his eyes for two hours as well, eventually realized that not all men in the world were the same. In this world, there still someone who worthy to trust. After the young man left, Mei Ji said to her servant, 'if that man becomes a king tomorrow, Mei Ji will be a concubine and serve him.' After said those words, she immediately repurchased herself, then retreated and hidden away to an unknown area." Xia Guan leisurely leaned his head back, as if remembered her style, "such a beauty, personality and action wises, easily made men fascinated and crazy about her?"

Feng Ming blinked the people in this world he knew not many, among them, who would have such gallantry; there was only one person that clearly in his mind. Feng Ming opened his mouth, "Duke Rong?"

"Crown Prince is smart." Xia Guan handed a cup of wine to Feng Ming, waved his fan, slowly

said, "Duke Rong when he was a teenager, had leaved Xi-Rei, who immediately used the strange tactic and won the hearts of the Most Beautiful Woman, which shocked the world. All the kingdoms knew there is a very extraordinary man appeared from Xi-Rei that cannot be underestimating, Duke Rong and Ruo Yan had known throughout the world for bi-preeminent, Duke Rong renowned was start from there."

Feng Ming felt a little bitter aftertaste emerged in the heart. He nearly snorted out coldly, so it seemed Duke Rong was famous in the world because of that, only vainly famed because of a female, and here he thought Duke Rong must do something great that had shocked the world.

Xia Guan does not seemed to sense Feng Ming feeling and praised Duke Rong, "Duke Rong was indeed the pride of Xi-Rei, without said a word able to overcome a human heart, therefore on a battle field who could resist him?"

Feng Ming curved his lips, felt his heart suffered and murmured, "It was no more than a battle strategy on psychological level. 'Voiceless victory over sound'; in that situation if he opened his mouth, it would not be effectiveness so better remain silence. If it was I there, I will not speak at all. "

"Voiceless is victory over sound?" Xia Guan brooded over the words for several times, his eyes sudden lightened with wonder, cleared his throat and said, "Prince... do you want to see how beautiful Mei Ji is?"

The female who could stirred the hearts Duke Rong, of course Feng Ming naturally wanted to see, turned and asked, "Do you have one of her paintings?", *'If it was a photo from camera would be better, to able capture her and see more clearly.'*

"There is no portrait." Xia Guan saw Feng Ming disappointed, he instantly revealed a sly smile, "However, the hidden place of Mei Ji was locate nearby, outskirts of this city about three miles, the place located within a valley, called Chang Hong Gu. Inside the valley, there are hot springs that allowed roses to be flourishing all year round, endless beautiful. If we're sneaks off with Tong General horses and go in the valley to see Mei Ji, also taking hot spring baths, would that not be pleasurable? If we only take two hours to return here, no one would know otherwise."

Feng Ming faced with such good suggestion his heart was very please but cried out for the danger behind it. If he had not remembered the stern emotional eyes of Duke Rong and his sceptical view of Xia Guan, he would of course immediately nod in agreement, tricked everyone and snuck outside the city with Xia Guan already.

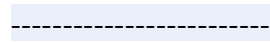
Feng Ming's eyes wandered for a while, and then finally nodded, "Yes, we'll secretly sneak out."

Xia Guan was overjoyed.

Feng Ming said, "You helped me to distract Lie-er, I will go back the room to change for riding outfits, and then takes Tong General beloved horse in the courtyard to wait for you. So what about Xia Guan horse...? "

Xia Guan said quickly, "Your Highness need not to worry about my horse, just as long you could quickly prepared to leave."

Feng Ming stood up, since everyone was mostly drunk, the reception currently a bit of a mess, he winked his eye to signal Lie-er and quickly leaved the room.



Chapter XIX

Feng Ming quietly departed the reception room, it was very dark outdoor and occasionally there was a few patrol guards holding lances.

The music and soothed atmosphere had cut off from the door, gusty cold wind blowing against him, into his neck, make Feng Ming wanted to retract his neck.

It was scary like Duke Rong suspected; Xia Guan indeed had persuaded him to leave the city alone. Listened to Duke Rong analysis was one thing, but actually saw Xia Guan wore a fake a smile and set a trap for him was another story.

The subtle of a long-term conspiracy that never ended, probed his thought to extend that made Feng Ming felt cold inside and shivered thoroughly.

He really scared.

"Rong Tian..." when he stepped into the bedroom, his leisurely postured that he forced act in the reception room had disappeared, Feng Ming swoop into Duke Rong arms and whispered, "Xia Guan really...really..."

Duke Rong felt Feng Ming shaking, did not have the time to rejoice the fact that Feng Ming had initiated in seeking him, automatically holding Feng Ming closer to his chest, his arms tightened, embraced Feng Ming firmly on the chest, whispered, "No problem, he will not hurt you."

Feng Ming's head lifted slightly, his eyes hidden a faint of tears, like a newborn bambini. Duke Rong saw and gently kissed his earlobe, assured, "I am here, and no one could hurt you."

Feng Ming was momentary touched but suddenly remembered Mei Ji and his bitterness once again reappeared. He muffled, snorted and turned away from Duke Rong's arms. Feng Ming wiped his tears, then retold Xia Guan story. When Feng Ming come to the part where a young man silent had conquered Mei Ji. Duke Rong immediately understood why Feng Ming face becomes very angry. He ashamed and tried to explain, "I was very young and curious, when I heard of the Most Beautiful Woman..."

"So the story is true." Feng Ming eyes scorned, looking at Duke Rong, "I had thought that Xia Guan invented the story and attempted to deceive me." He thought of Duke Rong as a womaniser, in that case he probably have one woman hidden in every countries so one day when he become the ruler of all kingdoms, then he would have " his concubines to serve him", currently he estimate at least eleven countries will be in disputed...

The mood became worsen and his head on fire extremely annoyed, grabbed the bed curtains still hanging ripped it with his own teeth.

Duke Rong looked at the scene and felt hilarious, pulled the curtain back from Feng Ming mouth and stroked his face, "Since you're angry at me why don't you bite my palm instead." Then put his hand before Feng Ming mouth.

Feng Ming would do no such thing, as his gloomy face turned away, "No need to use pain degradation approach. Quickly handle Xia Guan case."

"Pain degradation approach?" Duke Rong thought over *'this must be Feng Ming new phrase'* repeated twice then seriously said, "At this stage, I will have to make appearance. Xia Guan surely be waiting for you in the backyard, I'll order Rong Hu secretly capture him and then sent Tong General and three thousand soldiers surrounded the valley. If we find soldiers of Li Kingdoms ambush there then it is evidence that Xia Guan is a spy. If the valley does not have Li Kingdom's soldiers, I'll order Rong Hu to release Xia Guan, as if he had taken away by a

nameless masked man. "

Feng Ming saw Duke Rong just in a moment able to get things planned properly, he even thought of appropriate approached in dealing if his suspicion was incorrect. Feng Ming secretly admired the man and pensive for a moment then reminds Duke Rong, "Mei Ji retreated in the valley; please advised Tong General who led the soldiers to be careful, she is a female, should not be injured."

Duke Rong was temporary frozen, looked at Feng Ming and revealed a grateful smile before teasing, "Why are you worried about Mei Ji? I just saw someone jealous and tearing the bed curtain. "

Feng Ming proved that he is not inferior and coldly replied, "The world most beautiful woman, who had someone spent two hours stared before leaving, in the future also want to take her as a concubine, surely need to preserve in a good condition."

"Tsk..." Duke Rong shook his head, grabbed hold of Feng Ming's hands, profound eyes looked straight into his and solemn voice, "Although this world is big, there is only one Feng Ming."

His heart once again warm, those words seemed like using a hammer engraved into the heart of Feng Ming.

Feng Ming lowered his head, a warmth shining from Duke Rong's eyes surrounded his body,

ran over thousands and thousands of blood vessels, the outpoured warm could not able to describe in words. He lightly bitten his lips, finally sweetly laughed with Rong Tian, "stupid... I will teach you, this is called 'Ruo natural water, only take one gourd to drink*'. "

"Ah, 'Ruo natural water, only take one gourd to drink'." Duke Rong suddenly seems serious, orderly and stooped before Feng Ming, "Thank you Your Highness for your lesson."

Feng Ming shook his head and groaned, *'such delicious honey words, indeed no one could match and resisted the love kindle from Rong Tian, the world most gorgeous man...'*

Duke Rong took action quickly as lightning. He called Rong Hu who had discreetly hidden and ordered to capture Xia Guan. Afterward, he and Feng Ming stepped outside the bedroom, walked straight to the reception hall.

When he appeared inside the room, everyone was amazed at his sight, almost sobered from drunkenness. Lie-er had drunk a lot and upon saw Duke Rong, understood the situation had changed, immediately stood up and followed behind Feng Ming.

"Tong General." Duke Rong reversely impressive headed toward the highest seat and sat down, in his baritone called.

Tong general responsible for Feng Ming protection had not taken a drop of wine. When he saw Duke Rong suddenly appeared and heard him called, instantly ear-piercing, "Yes!" walked

forward to listen to the command.

"Reconnaissance report, Chang Hong Gu about three miles from the city where the thieves have planned to ambush Xi-Rei convoy, you'll lead three thousand soldiers and dispersed them.

Remember, do not need to destroy the whole group but inspection thoroughly before take the soldiers back here."

"As yours command!" Tong general initial was a military commander, upon heard there is a battle, it could seen far more interesting than being sitting to watch over the banquet, instantly take order, and summon troops to leave for security check over the area.

Duke Rong saw Tong general out of sight as he looked down at the crowd, were still paralysed and motionless in the hall, he smiled and said, "Duke Rong worried for the security of Prince, excuse me for came here tonight disturbed yours party. Musicians, singers and dancers continued yours singing and dancing, let us freely celebrated tonight."

Zhang Qian was still a lowly official in the sight of Duke Rong Xi-Rei, when he heard the famous man came sudden so had no idea how to entertain the man. When he heard Duke Rong spoken, he hastily flattered, "Yes, yes, freely drinking and singing." Then he turned to give ordered to the dance division.

Instantly dancers and musicians restarted. The festive atmosphere had returned successfully and noisy as before. The only thing that different was no one dared to offers Feng Ming a cup of

wine when he sat beside one well known, Duke Rong.

Feng Ming's hand under the table was clutched by Duke Rong who constantly watchful over him. Feng Ming worried for Tong general who led the troops to clean up of an ambush; he saw Duke Rong casually enjoyed the banquet, occasionally turned to see him so he faintly smiled. Feng Ming moaned in the heart, *'so it true that only these types of elite people could actually able to exist and struggled everyday between layer and layer of deceit schemes.'*

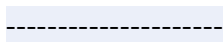
He compared himself against Duke Rong and felt he was too childish and immature, inevitable depressed.

Duke Rong was considerate worried for Feng Ming. He slightly inched closer to the other man and whispered, "Are you alright?"

Feng Ming shook his head, "Nothing, I just not used when everyone was plotting and trapping the other."

"Ha-ha that is why I love you most." Duke Rong deep laughter had comforted and reassurance Feng Ming, "These entrapment tactics just let me supports you."

The hands under the table hold on tighter.



Note:

'Ruo natural water only takes one gourd to drink'

English similar phrase: There may be plenty of fish in the sea. However, there is only one fish for me.



I tried to find a picture to demonstrate this phrase and thought this one is good.

Excerpted from chapter 91 of the 'Hung Lou Meng /Dream of the Red Chamber'

Lin Daiyu said,

"If I become friend with you, what you will do? If I do not close to you, what will you do? If I close to you before but not now, what will you do? If I close to you later and then not, what will you do? If you want to be close to me but I do not want to, what will you do? If I want close to you but you do not want to, what will you do? "

Jia Baoyu stunned for a while then suddenly laughed and said,

"Although Ruo natural water, I only takes one gourd to drink."

(That is despite how much natural water in Ruo kingdom has; however, I only need one gourd to drink)

Lin Daiyu said,

"What if the gourd was floating with the water, what you will do?"

Jia Baoyu said,

"It is not the gourd that floated with water, but water was flowing and the gourd simply freely floated."

Lin Daiyu said,

"If the water stood still and I sank then what you will do?"

Jia Baoyu said,

"The heart already had lost, a bird would not wanted to dance to greet the spring breeze."

Lin Daiyu said,

"The first commandment of heaven that is not lies."

Jia Baoyu swore,

"In Heaven..."

From that day onward when couple deeply in love they using these words, 'Ruo natural water, only take one gourd to drink' as a vow for eternal love.



Chapter XX

It did not take three hours for Tong general swiftly returned to report.

"Your Highness Crown Prince, Duke Rong, yours General had led the soldiers to Chang Hong Gu, indeed I found that there was nearly a thousand soldiers hidden in forest. Our three thousand soldier of Xi-Rei immediately fought them and they were scattered, three hundred prisoners had taken, countless enemies had died and about hundred escaped. Their leader was shot down from the horse by me, here is his head." Tong general waved his hand and his subordinate moved forward and offered a bloodstained head.

Duke Rong used to seeing blood so do not feel strange to the situation only Feng Ming who saw a bloodstained head for the first time, instantly shivered with chills.

Zhang Qian stood aside and watchful over the situation thought, *'the Crown Prince of Xi-Rei indeed is talents unfortunately he guts was undersized, it seems Duke Rong still the ruler of Xi-Rei.'*

Duke Rong felt Feng Ming's cold palm, nodded to signal the soldier to take the head away.

Although Tong general went to battle in the winter night but he extremely excited, he briefly retold what happened in the battle but found the event was strange so hesitate said, "The clothes on the opponent was not like those of bandits, the scouts had reported but wore military uniform of Li Kingdom. In addition,...they seemed not stop there for camping at Chang Hong Gu but

actually ambushed. It was bizarre; clearly, the route back to Xi-Rei does not go through there.

Moreover, Prince had accompanied by five thousand soldiers to guard, but why only ambushed about a thousand soldiers?"

Duke Rong turned and glanced at Feng Ming for a moment, sneered coldly, "That question should better ask Xia Guan." He suddenly raised his voice, "Come and lead Xia Guan here."

Rong Hu supremely expert in martial art quickly captured Xia Guan, then tied him in the backyard and showed Lie-er where he had placed Xia Guan.

Tong general was unaware that Xia Guan a spy, he had thought it was strange that he yet to see Xia Guan tonight, suddenly found the other man hands tied behind his back and pushed into the room by Lie-er, his face dramatic changed and frozen like a wooden log.

"Xia Guan teacher, do you know why are you suddenly become a prisoner?" Duke Rong played with the wine cup in his hand and lips smirked at Xia Guan.

Xia Guan suddenly arrested, heard Tong general led the soldiers away, and then saw Duke Rong furtive presence, knew everything had exposed. He coldly glanced at Duke Rong and laughed, "bad planning, if I had known early that Duke Rong here, Xia Guan would given more attention, a hundredfold."

"You have been with Xi-Rei Royal Family for many years and have not repaid the nation, but conspiracy to harm Crown Prince. Do you know your crime?"

"Xia Guan from the beginning is Li Kingdom citizen, many generations lived under the grace of Li King's shelters, hidden within Xi-Rei for military intelligence, and this of course is my responsibility." Xia Guan knew he would die; he showed fearless, keeps a straight face and blatantly said, "I asked Duke Rong, what Xia Guan's crime committed for serving his country?"

Duke Rong eyes only slightly smiled and shook his head slightly, "Before you die you're still bold, if you want to be a hero, I will assist you. Come on, taken Xia Guan to guillotine then gives his head to Ruo Yan, pleaded that he buried Xia Guan a little better. "

Feng Ming stayed beside Xia Guan for many days, although Xia Guan shape is not attractive, but humorous amiable, accomplished, and taught him many things, now that Duke Rong ordered beheaded could not stopped blinking. He did not want to so sneakily shaken Duke Rong's hand in private, to intercede for the other man.

Duke Rong stopped and said, "Prince should not softened your heart, he is a spy and early had been anticipated of this coming day."

Feng Ming wanted to speak but Duke Rong turned away, lower his voice asked, "Did you ever thought, that if his conspiracy is successful and you've fallen into the hands of Ruo Yan, then what will be the ending?"

Feng Ming heart trembled; he thought of the terrifying Ruo Yan's eyes so in the end could not

able to speak anymore.

Unfortunately, Xia Guan was so knowledgeable that he can regard as a rare talent person.

Feng Ming turned to see a glimpsed of Xia Guan, saw soldiers were escorted him out and shouted, "Xia Guan teacher, please wait!"

He hurried down the steps, holding a cup of wine, in front of Xia Guan, "Xia Guan teacher, on the road you had taught me many things, An He lent this wine and thanks Xia Guan teacher."

"Thank you Your Highness." Xia Guan stared at Feng Ming deeply, held the wine cup, tilted and drank.

"Xia Guan teacher although is a spy for Li Kingdom but your heart loyalty to your country which greatly admirable." Feng Ming said softly, “*A good man die for a friend*”, Ruo Yan was brutal and cunning person. Is he really worth for Xia Guan teacher to give up his life to serve? Duke Rong is wise and decisive unified world. He will certainly unify the kingdoms, and with teacher talents if possible assist Duke Rong goal, will become legendary in history. An He today nearly lost his life at teacher hand, but An He willing to entrust his life to you again. Pleading teacher cut off the ties with Li Kingdom and for Xi-Rei to do your best in assistant."

His words were rationalised, not just Xia Guan but also the entire crowds who stood in the hall was swaying by Feng Ming.

Duke Rong wine cup in his hand trembled softly, a few drops spilled out. He had not thought Feng Ming for his sake had been worried and wholeheartedly supported his unification of all kingdoms ambition. The elongated slender body in front of his eyes sudden changed and became a little bit stronger.

Xia Guan face changed for several times, the eyes showed he was emotional, and eventually stabilized, then repeatedly rehearsed the phrase "A good man die for a friend" several times, before laughing replied, "I'm awed of your heart psychology, Your Highness persuasion even better than Duke Rong. Li King proved that he is a rare wise monarch, Xia Guan would not dare to compare as his friend but only be a stepping stone."

He abruptly stopped laughing, looked at Feng Ming and groaned, "If only Your Highness was born in Ly country, how good is that? Anyway, there is no helping. Li King is very intelligent; he was good at everything. He seemed to takes interested of Crown Prince, will certainly not only used Xia Guan plot." There was air of confidence in the speech that had made Duke Rong and Feng Ming silently alerted for trouble.

Xia Guan finished and turned to the four directions, hands fastened, "Everyone, Xia Guan goes first." Then turned and strode away laughing.

His heroic leisurely posture truly applauded.

Feng Ming watched Xia Guan leaving for a long time; Duke Rong feared that he was sad, slowly walked down the stairs, holding on his shoulder and asked, "What's the matter?"

"Nothing." Feng Ming shook his head, looked over that direction said, "If one day I was arrested and beheaded by other, most certainly would want to have the freedom like that."

Duke Rong almost cried and laughed at the same time, pulled him toward the table and chided, "Who would curse oneself like that?" then fill a cup of wine and give it to Feng Ming, "Come drink."

Feng Ming flashed his eyes over the wine cup then shook his head, "No, I do not want to drink..."

"I am beside you now, why are you afraid? This is why I want you to drink." Duke Rong narrowed his eyes and mocked, "Say may be if you're drunk, you may not afraid of pain anymore."

It turned out that was Duke Rong purposes so Feng Ming even more refused to drink and shook his head.

The two of them, one was a prince of Xi-Rei, the other well known in the world as Duke Rong so the entire guesses in the reception hall open-mouthed and round eyes watched their nonsense, no one dared open their mouth disturbed them.

"Drink."

"No, I'll not. Your heart was not in a proper place."

"If you're not drinking, I'll pour it into your mouth."

"Damn you, I'll not drink."

Feng Ming escaped being force to drink that he lost his decency manners, huddled and hidden under the table. Lie-er facial was disinterested of course take it for granted, Tong general looks ashamed, thought that Xi-Rei prestige would be destroyed over by their two greatest men, turned and said to Zhang Qian, "Zhang Excellency, the night is late, should... "

"What? Night..." Zhang Qian saw Feng Ming and Duke Rong publicly flirting in front of everyone, dazed and when Tong general gently reminded immediately nodded repeatedly, "Yes, I'll take my leave; I'll take my leave immediately." The others quickly followed, the rooms once filled with guests now was empty. Tong general felt uncomfortable and with Lie-er went outside to guard, only Feng Ming and Duke Rong still stucked to their game to drink or not to drink.

Duke Rong initially feared that Feng Ming depressed so he used wine to harass him until he disordered. When he saw the sadness on Feng Ming slowly melted away, felt a little bit relieved, put down the cup of wine, "Fine, if you don't want to drink then do not, let us go back to the

room to sleep." He reached out and picked Feng Ming up.

Feng Ming allowed Duke Rong to pick him up, giggled, "Since I'm afraid of pain, why don't you give in...," he only said a half of the speech when his face sudden changed, his body contracted into a ball.

"What do I need to give in?" Duke Rong felt strange looked down, the cherries face of Feng Ming had turned extremely pale, Feng Ming hands grasped his abdomen, seemed in great pain and unbearable suffered, "Feng Ming, what wrong with you?"

"Pain ..."

Chapter XX

Part II

"Pain?" Duke Rong immediately put Feng Ming down and carefully observed Feng Ming while one hand checking for his pulses.

Tong general and Lie-er heard noises, hastily opened the door and come inside the room.

His abdominal constantly colic, as if his intestines were torn apart into pieces.

"It's hurt ..." Feng Ming could not withstand the pain as his lips turned purple, gripped Duke Rong sleeve softly cry out, "Duke Rong I'm hurting, I love..."

"Do not be afraid, do not be afraid." Duke Rong saw Feng Ming cried pain, his heart ached like knife cutting it, one hand patting him attempt to reassure and comfort, while forces him calmed and used the other hand checking for pulses.

Tong general patiently watched Duke Rong diagnosis, Lie-er saw Feng Ming's forehead was sweating provided a warm towel and was onto his knees at one side gently wiped it clean.

"Duke Rong, Crown Prince..."

Duke Rong studied the pulses then suddenly withdrawn, quietly said, "Tong General, I commanded to stop the execution, spare Xia Guan and bring him here instantly."

"Understood!" Tong general knew it was an emergency, immediately stood up then shouted loudly, "Stop the execution," his scream echoed for great distance.

Lie-er on the side said, "Master, it seemed Prince getting a bit better now."

At that moment, the pain seemed slightly reducing and allowed Feng Ming to take a deep breath, softly asked, "Are you let Xia Guan go?"

"Are you feeling a bit better?" Duke Rong lowered his head and held Feng Ming closer to his chest.

"Well, suddenly it sudden hurt but now it much better."

Duke Rong saw Feng Ming had bitten his lips as it was bleeding, his eyes showed disheartening and carefully licked away the blood, said, "You may had food poisoned, earlier told you to be careful, in this cold weather you should not just eat anything, now you stomach ached, see?"

The colic had come quickly also gone as fast; while they talked, the paleness colour on his face had recuperation to the usual pink. Lie-er saw the changes and sighed relieves.

A moments later, Tong general returned to report and depress replied, "Crown Prince, Duke Rong, Xia Guan had already beheaded." When he looked up and saw Feng Ming was perfectly in good condition and peacefully holding on Duke Rong's hands, surprised, "Ah? Prince is well again? "

Feng Ming nodded, "Yes, perhaps I have ate something that is unclean. Unfortunately, if the pain had come a little earlier then I can save Xia Guan teacher." His heart still nagged of Xia Guan death, turned and looked at Duke Rong said, "If I had fake earlier, then you would not kill him."

Duke Rong face was a bit dark but forced a smile said, "Yes, if I had known you do not want this, I would not had him killed."

"It was you who said must kill him; I should not ask for pardon remembered?"

That night when Feng Ming was asleep inside the room, Duke Rong got up gently and pulled over a wool coat. He found a secluded spot and quietly called Rong Hu and Lie-er.

"Feng Ming in Fan Jia, did he ever contact with Ruo Yan?"

Lie-er said, "His Royal Highness in Fan Jia had met with Ruo Yan twice. One he met him at the Third Princess' Mansion, and the other inside King Fan Jia's bedchamber."

"Had he touched Feng Ming?"

Rong Hu said, "The meeting at Third Princess' Mansion yours subordinate had monitor from outside the window, Ruo Yan only stared at the Prince, in addition they also situated between two people thus could not have any physical contact. In the inner palace of Fan Jia, yours servant also hidden close by, Ruo Yan also kept a distance from Prince, the only thing..."

Duke Rong narrowed his solemn eyes and questioned, "Only what?"

"Only during when Prince stepped up the staircases, accidentally slipped his foot, Ruo Yan from behind had supported His Highness." Rong Hu saw Duke Rong face increase worsening and his scalp began tingled up.

"Supported a little?" Duke Rong fist tightly jammed, frowned and shouted, "Ruo Yan very good at using drugs, let alone that Feng Ming never taken precaution, you ... how you could be so careless?"

Lie-er and Rong Hu, both coldly sweated, Rong Hu did not dared to speak up. Lie-er deviously checked Duke Rong gloomy surface and asked softly, "Master, had Ruo Yan poisoned Prince?"

"His pulses beat strangely; it absolutely was not a normal stomach pains." Duke Rong eyes shot

out an evil rayed before he calmed down said, "Feng Ming alone met Fan Jia King in his bedchamber also arranged by Xia Guan?"

Lie-er nodded quietly.

If this was correct, then Xia Guan had deliberately arranged the meeting, Ruo Yan must have known that they will be alone together and taken the opportunity to poison which, absolutely would not be difficult.

Ruo Yan studied poisons, his servant Xia Guan also a master in drug medicine, so the poison on Feng Ming... A bitter windy passed through the thick furs and as if directly blowed against his heart.

"Yours servants incompetent, ineffective protection His Highness, pleaded Master for punishment."

Duke Rong bowed his head for a long time and sighed, "I cannot hold you totally responsible, it was me, and I should have not let Feng Ming legation to Fan Jia. He... he was from beginning did not want to go either." He clutched his palm and grinded the wall, repentance of his choices.

Rong Hu and Lie-er was very familiar with their master traits, suddenly saw him being sorrowful was privately surprised. Who would have expected the strong attraction of Prince made a person who always freely reins like Duke Rong to feel this deeply.

Duke Rong of course was not an ordinary person, after a moment of regretted, was immediately planned a solution and distributed the task to his servants, "Ruo Yan will not immediately killed Feng Ming, so certainly used chronic poison. Rong Hu, you immediately entered Li Kingdom, and monitored Ruo Yan movement, investigate what types of poison he had used on Feng Ming, and then be sure steal the antidote back. I returned to Xi-Rei faster and announced the truth to world and coronate as King. Ruo Yan must know even if he had controlled Feng Ming life he could not controls Xi-Rei. Lie-er, you also immediately departed quickly to the Queen and notified her to have everything prepared for the coronation."

"Yes, Master."

Rong Hu and Lie-er responded in union.

Duke Rong paused and grinded each word, "You'll listened carefully, Feng Ming being poisoned by Ruo Yan, will not be revealed even half-word to anyone, even more so with Feng Ming. That will be all, you could leave now."

After arranged everything in orderly fashion, Duke Rong heavy footsteps went back into the bedroom.

As he pushed the door, the sounds Feng Ming echoed.

"Where are you going?" He rubbed his eyes confuse.

Duke Rong quickly stepped to the bed, smiled, "Why are you awake? It's not morning yet."

"I'd just touch your side of bed, it was cold, turned out you was not there." Feng Ming lazily stretched, rubbing the head on Duke Rong's chest sceptics asked, "Did you sneak out to see Mei Ji?"

"Speculation."

"Hehe, if you want to look, go straight to her. I am a man will not jealous over a young female."

"Mei Ji compared to you and I was much older, you would not believe how long she had ruled as the most beautiful in this world."

"Ah, so it seems that you desired an older woman. Duke Rong, oh, Duke Rong, why are you a womaniser like that?" Feng Ming pulled Duke Rong's ear softly.

Duke Rong muffled his laughter.

Feng Ming asked, "Why you are not refuted? Are you not always best at argue? "

"How should I counter this? Plead Your Highness for counsels. "

"Uhh..." Feng Ming was brainstormed, the eyes rolled for a while and suddenly brightened up, "I've it, and you could counter like this, '*A juvenile not indulgently entertained had waste his youth*'. "

"Ah, a juvenile not indulgently entertained had waste his youth..."

They was tête-à-tête for the rest of the night, the sky gradually brighten.

Duke Rong mentally was constantly repeated the promise yesterday; the person life that was laying on his chest, with his own hands must permanently protected forever.

Xi-Rei embassy was speedy departure the next day, travelled through days and nights. It was about four days later that they reached the capital of Xi-Rei.

The Queen upon heard Lie-er reported, had instantly arranged for the coronation. Duke Rong and Feng Ming returned to the palace was immediately conducted the ceremonial for coronation.

News broken loosens in the world.

It turned out the world well-known bi-preeminent Duke Rong was actually Xi-Rei Prince.

An He Prince real name was Feng Ming, the previous King had chosen Feng Ming to protect his own child.

Ten days later, Duke Rong finally crowned, sat on the highest position of Xi-Rei.

Feng Ming had done a great service for the country and designated as Duke Ming, everything that previously belong to Duke Rong palace rewarded to Feng Ming. However, he still living in the crown prince's quarter, Chiu Lian's group served him as his maidservants. The people welcome and pay more respects to him, compared to being as a Prince his new position was much higher.

"Congratulation, you're finally become the King. The task of this fake prince is official over."

"Feng Ming, I'm fortune to have you beside me."

Feng Ming faked vomit, shook his head, "No need to act like that, you're remarkable person, even without me you still become Xi-Rei King, An Xun probably was a small problem for you."

King Rong looked deeply into Feng Ming, opened his mouth, "You have promised to support my conquest for the other kingdoms, do not forget."

"Ha ha, wonder why you are anxious. It turned out what you actually want was my vast knowledge." Feng Ming nodded, "Do not worry, a gentleman word is bond, never withdrawn."

"You promised with me, before the pacification of all kingdoms, never leave me."

"You're scared that I'll change my heart?" Feng Ming pointed at his nose; he was dissatisfied with Rong Tian mistrust.

"No." Rong Tian shook his head and said quietly, "I afraid you'll died."

Thump!

Immediately, the eyes of Xi-Rei King received a blow.

"Are you cursing me? You just ascended on Xi-Rei throne and immediately want me to die? "

"Ah, Feng Ming, why is your blow getting heavier likes that?"

Chapter XXI

In the year four hundred seventy four B.C. (474 BC), Duke Rong Tian of Xi-Rei reigned as Xi-Rei King, to commemorate the nurture of his foster father Duke Rong, he had decided to use the old name Rong Tian. Since then was there no longer a Duke Rong Tian just Rong Tian, Xi-Rei King.

Feng Ming ordained as Duke Ming of the Kingdom.

King Rong always seen to be a dangerous person in the lands, which have been the focal point of attention for many countries, currently, become the true King of Xi-Rei therefore even more of a threat to instability frontlines between the eleven nations.

In order showed good intention and investigation of the situation, when King Rong ascended on his throne, all the nations had came to offering gifts. Yong Yin was a small neighboured country of Xi-Rei, consequently Yong Yin King wanted to stay on King Rong good side had sent his eldest son Yong Yi to congratulate with him in person.

Even King Ruo Yan also sent an envoy to Xi-Rei. The ambassador Ruo Yan had selected was his own blood sister Miao Guang.

The soldiers were mighty and peaceful on the road. Xi-Rei entered the month of March so spring fast approached.

Li King Embassy from long distances had eventually entered the capital of Xi-Rei. Rong Tian personally received Miao Guang at the Court Hall.

Feng Ming remained at the prince's quarter.

"Quickly tell me, what Ruo Yan's sister had offered you?"

"It's nothing, just a box."

"So simple object?" Feng Ming disappointed and shrugged, "He and you professed as the world bi-preeminent, he should have brought you something worthy of a gift that is interesting."

Rong Tian laughed peeled fruit and feed Feng Ming, "Him and me swore never stand under the same sky. How could he give something nice to me?"

"Is there something in the box?"

'Yes - In the box, only one black capsule'. Think of the dark colour, like the eye of death, his face slightly darken but quickly recovered and untruthful said, "If it was something good, I had already brought it to you."

Feng Ming casually nodded.

Chiu Lian offered a cup of hot tea, passed it into Feng Ming's palm, laughed gently and asked, "Duke Ming why don't you ask King, if Miao Guang was a beautiful princess or not?"

"That's right." Feng Ming muttered to himself, ran and pulled the sleeve of King Rong, "Is Miao Guang Princess pretty?"

"Not, at all."

Feng Ming blinked, "So why then Ruo Yan sent his sister to Xi-Rei?"

"I am not Ruo Yan, how should I know, may be Li Kingdom does not have anyone else to take up the position." Rong Tian patted Feng Ming's cheek, "Feng Ming today the sky is clear, why we don't go out for horseback riding."

"Yes!"

The plot that obscurity had came nearer to them.

On the grass field, White Cloud launched his hooves gallops as if flying as Feng Ming cry overjoyed. His horsemanship had greatly progressed and King Rong confident to let him riding White Cloud alone.

Feng Ming rode White Cloud for one round, while Rong Tian face was like the sunny sky but lurked somewhere layers of dark cloud.

Ruo Yan indeed was a ruthless person. Rong Tian remembered the reception with Miao Guang princess early that morning.

"Miao Guang of Li Kingdom, on behalf of our King offered goodwill and auspicious wishes to Xi-Rei King, long lived." In the Court Hall, Miao Guang dressed in Li costumes, turned to the direction of Rong Tian who sat the highest station in the court and slowly execution salute ceremony.

"Miao Guang Princess travelled afar, made a lot of effort to be here."

"To able to see the world well-known Xi-Rei King, a little miserable was worth it." She was barely sixteen years old at best, compared with Third Princess charming was still lacking, but her identity was much more important, as she was the only family of King Ruo Yan.

Rong Tian coldly smiled, "Li King recently still in good health?"

"Brother King in good health, thank you Xi-Rei King for interested."

Rong Tian thought about the unknown poison on Feng Ming; instantly his hate arisen and

wanted nothing more but devouring Ruo Yan. Although, he found his sister was liberal and here to celebrate his enthronement, and if he not acted benevolence it would not be appropriate, so with that concerns he broaden his smile and asked, "Your Highness travelled thousands of miles to come here, what gift you've carrying for Li King to me?"

Miao Guang smiled calmly, "Brother King said the offering gifts from him, Your Majesty could able to guess."

"What?" King Rong much stressed, but his cheerful face was not lessen, "Something that Rong Tian able to predict from Li King's mind, I'm not able to guess. Princess please brings it up here."

Miao Guang lifted her head slightly and eyes glancing from the distance to King Rong, shows two small dimples, "So anxious, Xi-Rei King had already guessed it." She took out a copper box; give it a servant to bring it up.

Rong Tian held the box onto his palm, and opened to look inside. It was clearly a black capsule.

He invited Miao Guang for a private meeting, instantly go straight to the point, "Li King's gift, what purpose it was intended?"

Miao Guang smiled, "The thought of Brother King, who know?" She was interested in looking at

King Rong's cold eyes, tilted her head, laughing like a simple rural female, "At most, this time with his thought, Miao Guang actually somewhat able to guess."

"Your Highness goes ahead."

"Duke Ming ingenuity unique, I heard recently that his body was infected with strange disease..."

"Strange disease? It seemed only those who come in contact with Ruo Yan, the body will be infected by strange disease." King Rong snorted coldly.

"Brother King admired His Grace abilities, of course was not callous to see Duke Ming at young age to leave this world so early, hereby commanded Miao Guang to take a medicine tablet and offered this to Xi-Rei King to save Duke Ming."

Rong Tian seemed sceptical, "Ruo Yan good heart?"

"Brother King's heart was the most generous." Miao Guang arrogantly replied, "The only thing is although the medicine is good, could mitigate only once. If Your Majesty wanted Duke Ming to fully recovered, I afraid I have to invite Duke Ming to Li Kingdom. Brother King will personally prescribe the treatment. "

If this how it was then Ruo Yan malicious objective had came out into the open.

Rong Tian gritted his teeth and his eyes showed malevolence, "Want me to give away Feng Ming, never!"

"Tsk, I heard that Xi-Rei King was educative for a very long time. Why just a little thing revealed such malevolence in front of a little old Miao Guang?" Miao Guang already trained by Ruo Yan, without fear, shook her head said, "In fact, if you do not want to give up Duke Ming, there always another way." She approached his ear gently...

"Rong Tian! Rong Tian!" Feng Ming voice echoed to him had broken up his line of thought.

He hurriedly lifted up his head saw Feng Ming riding in high speed toward him. When Feng Ming close to him seemed to regardless of White Cloud remained high speed galloping and displayed his skilfully acrobatic action that high difficult, smiling while torso rotated and jumped off the horse straight into Rong Tian.

"Watch out!"

"Ha ha ha ..."

The two people rolled on the grass carpet for some rounds before come to a stationary and sat up.

"How many times had I already said, if you not behave yourself, will not let you riding again!"

Rong Tian snarled, stroking Feng Ming's arm, "Are you hurt anywhere?"

"No!"

"I really want to hit you for once ..." Rong Tien angrily stared at Feng Ming, and then reached out to get rid of the weed in his hair.

White Cloud stopped running, slowly walked back to them and stood by the side, tails wagged and meekly lowered his head grazing the grass contentedly.

妙光



離國公主，若言寵愛的妹妹。長相一般，看起來是個天真可愛的小女孩，其實狡黠多智，常常利用自己無辜的面具給敵人製造錯覺，給她的王兄幫了不少忙。

奉若言之命，她還曾親自出馬，把鳳鳴騙得團團轉，差點成功地

把鳳鳴抓來送給王兄。是個不容小瞧的角色。

Miao Guang (Wonderful/Wondrous Light)

Chapter XXII

"I really want to hit you for once ..." Rong Tian angrily stared at Feng Ming, and then reached out to get rid of the weed in his hair.

White Cloud stopped running, slowly walked back to them and stood by the side; tails wagged and meekly lowered his head grazing the grass contentedly.

The winter season passed, the blue sky and white clouds of this moment made people felt joyful and happy. Feng Ming laying on the new shoots grasses, eyes closed and listened to the wind.

"Rong Tian I've discovered...that recently you have been particularly very good to me."

Rong Tian gently lifted himself on top of Feng Ming asked, "Had I treated you bad before."

"Hn," Feng Ming opened his eyes, looked infuriating, "Had you forgotten the first time when we met at the pool, you almost eat me? At that time you're ruthless and nasty; your eyes looked at me as if I'm a heap of rubbish."

"Eat?" Rong Tian smiled and frown then sighed, "Unfortunately, now that I could eat but not able to eat fully."

Feng Ming was full of pride watched over Rong Tian suffering form, revealed two dimples, not able to control his temptation as hand reached out caressing all the clear lines shows on King Rong's face, said softly, "I know that, you're very good to me."

"Of course, I am naturally treated you good."

"Ah, ah, today I will teach you another phrase – '*most dilemmas received from a beautiful person favour.*' The implication: never let a beautiful person treated you too good because the outcome later always turned out poorly. A beautiful person as you was too good to me, made me feel pressured and uneasy."

Feng Ming carefree laughter caused a greatest pain in the heart of Duke Rong which indescribable all the sudden.

The report from Rong Hu yesterday who hidden in Li Kingdom that the toxic on Feng Ming known as "Fu Yan", and "Man She" were unique type of poisons that legendary in the hands of Li King. Fu Yan attacked the body once a month, each time it would be more painful than previous. The agony pain increased until the human could only able to tolerate the pain. The best could survive twelve full moons, but after that, even if the person has iron skins could not the bear the pains would finally die.

The thing Rong Tian most worried that is, Feng Ming physical had never been healthy, and for him even to pass within the twelve moons seemed impossible.

The antidote secretly hidden by Ruo Yan, Rong Hu had exhaust used all sorts of method but could not get anything. Even searched for information seemed impossible much less stealing the antidote.

The one tablet Miao Guang brought only capable to mitigate the attack one time.

Rong Tian head was sudden sore. It seemed White Cloud besides him grazed the grass and caught some of his hair as well.

"Ha ha, White Cloud also has a sense of wickedness." Feng Ming laughed.

"Feng Ming..." Rong Tian whispered the name of his sweetheart, he felt endless tired as he leaned quietly on Feng Ming's chest to rest.

The steady heartbeat of Feng Ming, little by little enter into Rong Tian's ear.

The cool spring breezes gently passed as his reminiscence the serious conversation with Miao Guang at the palace.

The word had not spoken from Miao Guang but Rong Tian had already guessed the opponent's proposal.

'Ally marriage.'

Xi-Rei King and sister of Li King's allied in marriage indeed could be considering as advantageous for both countries. Unfortunately, the other party was Ruo Yan, if it simple to believe in the goodwill of Ruo Yan, then Rong Tian would profess the world bi-preminent name was nothing but vainly statement.

'Just what, Ruo Yan was ultimately had intended?'

Miao Guang was only sixteen, not counted as beautiful woman, but still was one of the female that Rong Tian founded difficult to deal with in his life.

"Does Duke Ming know that he infected by strange disease?"

"If he knew or not knowing, what is the difference?"

"Of course there is a difference?" Miao Guang gently stroked the teacup on her hand, her lips smiled, "This sickness was incompatible to sadness and emotional uncertainty. The person must

be comfortable in the heart for slow treatment. If Duke Ming knew of his illness of course will harm the body. Then even Brother King was to treat Duke Ming, I feared that it was too late. "

Rong Tian whispered a counter attacked, "Giving what said, I'll certain must take care of the Princess well and not let Your Highness to see Duke Ming. What would happen if Princess inadvertently disclosed the information, would that not harm Feng Ming? "

"Yours Majesty, why are you suspicious of Miao Guang, being here? If Miao Guang has bad intention toward Duke Ming, why had I verbally advised?" Miao Guang stared at Rong Tian, pursed her lips, "Miao Guang had been with Brother King for many years, have a little knowledge on medical, so if you accepted for Miao Guang to stay in Xi-Rei, for the treatment of Duke Ming diseases will be useful. Yours Majesty should not ponder over it."

She had spoken softly with suppleness, but Rong Tian felt something was not right in her offered, *'to keep Ruo Yan's sister at the palace was more dangerous allowed one thousand Li's soldiers in Xi-Rei.'*

The only method that could be of used at this moment was delayed times.

Therefore, Rong Tian better kept Miao Guang here, regard to the ally marriage the best thing to do was delay and if cannot delayed any longer than she still at least made a good hostage.



The bathroom scene when Feng Ming and Rong Tian had their first meeting.



Chapter XXIII

In the state of turbulence there always was instability outside as well inside.

On that day after the Assembly meeting with his subjects, Rong Tian quickly returned to the prince's quarter.

"Yours Majesty please hold your step; the Dowager Queen wishes to see you."

Rong Tian stopped, turned and saw the closest handmaid of the Dowager Queen, Xiang Fen.

"Do you know why the Dowager Queen called for me?"

Xiang Fen saluted, "Your servant do not know, the Dowager Queen said to wait after Your Majesty finished your meeting and pleaded that Your Majesty to visit the Dowager Queen's quarter for a moment."

He looked up at the sky and nodded, "I'll go right away." His hand waved to call a guard and commanded him, "Go and informed Duke Ming that I am seeing the Dowager Queen, in the afternoon I'll leave the palace with him." Then he followed Xiang Fen footsteps to the Dowager Queen's quarter.

Her appearance has not changed, at best, her costumes had modified from the Queen to Dowager Queen. She sat quietly alongside an elegant screen and was reading.

"Dowager Queen, I'm here to see Mother."

When Rong Tian walked inside the door the Dowager Queen put the book down, smiled gently, "King has come? Come here quickly and sit next to me." She gently pulled Rong Tian hand and meticulously observed him. This child of her had never been by her side since very young age, now that they have the chances, but he also grew up.

Rong Tian in front of others had done whatever he wanted, carefree, now in front of Dowager Queen who see him as a little kid and pulled his hand. He felt a bit bashful, unnoticed but gently pulled away. He sat down and asked, "Dowager Queen had called for me, is there a problem?"

"What problem? The King have done well deal with all country affairs, recently enthronement, what else that I'm not reassured." The Dowager Queen slightly sighed, "I now only look forward to see that Xi-Rei become more established for everlasting foundation."

"Dowager Queen should not be anxious. I'll certainly make sure that Xi-Rei will strengthen in military, peaceful country and prosperity to the people."

"Great King," Queen paused slightly and slowly, "I wished to speak of your future children. You're already turned eighteenth should now ready for marriage."

Rong Tian was a bit stunned, "Marriage?"

The issue of marriage had previously mentioned in the court by his subjects, but had been repeatedly rebuked by Rong Tian, sternly told them not brought it up ever again.

Lou Lan had been meticulous for many years, she saw another person took her son away, miserable experienced years of waiting for Rong Tian to coronate, the journeyed from a miserable Queen to the Dowager Queen was not easy. Rong Tian knew and understood his mother sacrificed efforts for Xi-Rei and devoted a lifetime, but since they never been close since childhood hence he was not emotional attached and felt alienate with her. Nevertheless, in his heart was extremely respectful to Dowager Queen.

Rong Tian could not shoved the issue over in front of the Dowager Queen like he did with others, he spoken tenderly, "Dowager Queen, I'm still a very young man, now is not the time. Let us discussed sometime later..."

"Yours Majesty needs not to refute. What are you feeling, how would I not know?" Her eyes seemed radiant like in her early years, lowered her voice, "In the end, this is about Duke Ming."

"Dowager Queen..."

"The important of Feng Ming in Your Majesty's heart, I do understand. However, I would like to insert to King some advised. Although, Duke Ming was good but will not able bearing the Great King's lineage. He also a perceptive person, after your marriage and the new Queen is pregnant. Who could divide Duke Rong and Your Majesty?" Dowager Queen watchful Rong Tian façade, then slowly counsels, "I heard Li King has a sister Miao Guang, although, not beautiful, but resourceful, would be made a good Queen of Xi-Rei. Since she currently dwelled within the capital, should King not consider whether she is appropriate?"

Rong Tian lightly raised his eyebrows, seriously said, "Ruo Yan has immense ambition, how could I made his sister the Queen of Xi-Rei?"

"Ha ha, a woman minds I would have better insight than the Great King." Queen waved her hands as the servants leaving them alone, she walked and spoken into his ear, "I supposed Miao Guang came to Xi-Rei does not have a good intentions. However, when a woman married, then her mind will gradually shifted to the husband, if we are, included Miao Guang into the future, which had some comprehension of Ruo Yan natures, this would help King greatly and would ensured Ruo Yan defeat. With Your Majesty abilities, so dealing with Miao Guang Princess should not be difficult, right? "

What Dowager Queen advised was logical.

Moreover, Ruo Yan actually was the biggest obstacle for Rong Tian to unify all the kingdoms.

Rong Tian without thinking and shook his head said, "Dowager Queen does not need to say anymore. Miao Guang Princess' situation I will deal with it myself. As for marriage issue, will be talk in a later date. "

His words was sternly with determination, without stopped decline the suggestion, immediately stood straight up, looked at the Dowager Queen and in his clear voice, "I had previously said some words with the Dowager Queen, Mother had seemed forgot. I'll say once more..." his eyes were glittered meaningful, released each word carefully, "If Dowager Queen loved Rong Tian, pleaded Dowager Queen to treat Feng Ming same as me."

Dowager Queen unexpectedly saw Rong Tian so soulful, temporary stiffened.

Rong Tian saluted Dowager Queen then said, "Dowager Queen had been worried for Xi-Rei many years, it would best now relaxed and enjoyed yours lives, the issue of marriage will be deal by me. Duke Ming currently waited so I will excuse myself. Dowager Queen please takes care, if I am free will certainly be visit here regularly." He had always respected the Dowager Queen for what she done for the country. Nevertheless, today upon heard Dowager Queen mentioned marriage he was very disappointed with her, he only see everyone gathered to harass Feng Ming, so spoken without mercy.

After his speech, he hastily rushed out the Dowager Queen's quarter.

Feng Ming was excited as he waited Rong Tian to return and together, they will leave the palace for the excursion. However, a guard informed him that Rong Tian had gone to see Dowager Queen's quarter, also Lie-er had suddenly left him and gone off somewhere, so alone inside the prince's quarter he was beginning to feel very bored.

Chiu Yue saw Feng Ming restless so she and the other servants gathered around him and chatted about the newest gossip from the outside. Chiu Lian said, "Since King had enthronement, much change was happening in Xi-Rei. The King said in May Festival this year he will open a national champions contest, and then recruit those who have talents to be an official."

"If this is the case then those that were not from noble family could become an official?"

Chiu Xing excited and shouted, "If I had known this, I would have asked my brothers back home to join the contest, they are very strong, maybe they can be recognised by the King."

"Ha ha, Chiu Xing had quickly picked it up." Chiu Lian joked.

Feng Ming knew Rong Tian had chosen to use the principles of advancement in rank through talents that he has recommended, could not help but secretly happy.

Chiu Lian continued, "What even more strange, I saw countless people ploughed the ground on

the mountainside, and also brought many weird pipes, perhaps the King want to farming on the mountains?"

"How could it be possible? Mountain slopes are steeps, also how to watering the plants?" Chiu Yue was sceptical.

Feng Ming smiled and said, "You're dense, have you never saw the terraces plantation before? But, Rong Tian initially heard of it was also surprised."

"Terraced fields?" Chiu Xing asked, "Duke Ming, what is terraces field?"

The term had not heard before so the maidservants looked at each other. Feng Ming inspired to help them to appreciate the essence of culture, instantly took the opportunity and sat up straight. He told Chiu Yue to bring over a few flowerpots, then poured the mud out of the pot and carefully illustrated the concept of terraces.

Their intelligent far less than Rong Tian was. After listened to the explanation but their faces still showed clearly of confusion.

Chiu Lian pursed her lips, "I still do not understand, but how could the water lead up the mountain?"

"I've been talking for a while now and yet you don't understand?" Feng Ming sadly cried, he helplessly looked at them, "Being a teacher is not easy..."

"So what? What the terraces field ultimately is? How the water leads up onto the mountain? If we could go and have a look then we will know for sure. "

The suggestion indeed was alike to what Feng Ming had in mind, his eyes brightened up, he stroked Chiu Yue's round face, "That is correct, you're still the smartest one. Anyway, Rong Tian will be absence for some time, we will leave the palace and looked at a genuine rice terraces, and this called a field survey. "

Chiu Lian had more life experience asked, "If we're sneaking out the Palace, King would know, he will certainly be unhappy."

"Why are you afraid, I am Duke Ming, a Duke freely accessed to the Palace right? When a Duke travelled outside, he could also lead several beautiful maidservants with him."

Chiu Xing leaped, "Yes, we went out to see this. It had been a long time since we were last leaving the palace. It was since we returned from Fan Jia's legation."

Chiu Yue pouted and gently said, "Although, Duke Ming often went outside, the only thing is

every time he leaved the Palace, only accompanied by the King, did not need us, maidservant to come along to serve Your Grace.”

"Okay, okay, I will bring you along this time." Feng Ming generously promised.

Chiu Lian thoughtful for a moment and nodded, "It should be fine to go outside, but not too far away. Otherwise..."

"Chiu Lian, you not going dobbed in right."

The three maidservants spoiled by Feng Ming. They also knew Rong Tian loved Feng Ming the most. When they heard, Feng Ming recommended going outside at once eagerly interested backing him. They laughed and helped Feng Ming changing his garments, taken care of orders for the horses as well, and hidden Duke Ming's seal, swiftly out of the palace.

Along the way, they travelled slowly and saw on the slope was busy. The works on terraced plantation was in progress. Feng Ming showed off, pointing at the architecture of the terrace field as he turned to Chiu Lian and explained in details.

"Ah, that how it was." Chiu Xing exclaimed and nodded.

Chiu Lian giggled, "It turned out Duke Ming still the best elite."

"Hn, of course, Duke Ming pretty and capable, moreover..."

"Okay Chiu Yue, you've started your same speech again. Duke Ming handsome and talented, we all know that already. "

They looked at the rice terraces for while and should have started return to the palace. However, the surrounding landscapes was so beautifully and colourful, the sky showed it was still early, Feng Ming like a monkey escaped from the cage, of course would not willing to go home.

Chiu Xing eyes rolled and incited Feng Ming, "Duke Ming, Third Princess currently dwelled outside the city. Could we go over there for a little bit to see if she's okay?"

The third princess after arrived in Xi-Rei, proposed to live outside of the capital. Duke Rong had fulfil the promises made, treated her like the Dowager Queen, he commanded to select an area outside that have most beautiful landscape, sent skilled artisan for construction as what the third princess designed for her residence, servants to serves every day, the same standards as the Dowager Queen.

Compared to a lonely desolated place in Fan Jia, the rituals treatment here was much better.

Seeing the third princess would be handily as well, he could able to review mathematics that he had previously learnt. After all, he did not wanted immediately return to the dull prince's quarter. Feng Ming applauded at the idea and ready to nod but Chiu Lian carefully advised, "Third

Princess lived outside the capital, while the King was not at present, Duke Ming best not leave the capital."

Chiu Yue the festive one, "There nothing to fear, we have Duke Ming's seal so we could able to leave the city anytime."



西雷



西雷梯田



王宮特色

沒有精雕細琢，但古樸雄偉，很有大國氣派。

國家簡介

當時實力最雄厚的國家之一，只有離國是其對手。

西雷建築雄偉大氣，民風樸實強悍，對王族非常忠誠。但國土地形大部分是山地，不利於耕種，在鳳鳴的建議下，容恬採用了梯田及各種先進方式改進農業，獲得極大豐收。

Chapter XXIV

Chiu Yue the festive one, "There nothing to fear, we have Duke Ming's seal so we could able to leave the city anytime."

Chiu Lian shook her head "No. Currently, we have so many envoys from other countries that came to celebrate the Great King enthronement, the soldiers followed them were stationed outside the capital. What would happen if Duke Ming taken away, then what would we do? Not to mention, what if we met with Miao Guang Princess' people..." She often had listened Rong Tian conversation about countries competition so the ability to analyse was quite good and clearly presented, and her posture was extremely naïve lovely and ignorant.

Feng Ming most afraid of Ruo Yan, upon heard Li Kingdom soldiers' stationed outside, chilly shivered and shook his head said, "Then we will not leave the capital." The other servants saw Feng Ming's attitude knew nothing could be say further.

This time Chiu Lian laughed, "Duke Ming stills the smartest."

"Hn, the smartest person was you." Chiu Xing was gently pinched Chiu Lian's ear.

Chiu Yue eyes suddenly rolled, suddenly lighten up and pulled Feng Ming gently over, "Duke Ming, your servant heard Miao Guang Princess was also a beautiful person, let have a look at her for a little bit."

"Li King's sister?"

Chiu Xing added, "Compared to the Third Princess, who are more beautiful?"

"That right, the guard said..." Chiu Yue laughed and brushed Chiu Xing aside and whispered to Feng Ming's ear, "The King had conversed with Miao Guang Princess in the private quarter for a very long time."

"Duke Ming, we're not going out the capital so how about visit Miao Guang Princess."

Feng Ming nonetheless had no intention to return home and he was a little curious about Li King's sister, nodded, "Yes, let us take a look at Li King's sister to see if she was scary as her brother. But...I do not know where she staying? Clearly, have to appoint one of you to investigate for a little."

Chiu Lian covered her mouth snickered but Chiu Xing saw her smile. Chiu Xing shouted, "Chiu Lian knew, Duke Ming please asked her quickly."

Feng Ming of course asked, "Chiu Lian, where is Miao Guang staying, you'll tell me quickly."

Chiu Lian had learnt Feng Ming bad habits of excessive question, also Chiu Xing was mockingly

laughed aside, so she lazily replied, "Your maidservant overheard the Management Official for the ambassadors that the Princess staying at Bac Huy residence, not far from the Royal Palace. "

"That's great, let go."

"Go and look over Li King's sister."

As they talked, together with Feng Ming walked directly to the paths of Bac Huy residence destination.

Suddenly to have Feng Ming who Brother King was inconsolable longing for visited, for Miao Guang Princess who sat meditate at the centre of the room was truly fortunate opportunity.

Xi-Rei King Rong Tian indeed was accurate as his renowned. When she saw his face, Miao Guang already knew Rong Tian would be hard to deal. Rong Tian subtleties never agreed and made her the Queen, in fact there a chance that he would detained her as a hostage.

However, Brother King was not simple either. He had earlier predicted Rong Tian would disagree to the ally marriage, and choose to use delay tactic. Miao Guang needs to take advantage the period of his procrastination and used her status as Li King's sister to stay in Xi-Rei, therefore, he could not declared war on Li Kingdom and everyday have to treat her well with respect; also there no restrictions was place on the coming and going of Miao Guang.

She will take advantage of the time in Xi-Rei and execute the plans accordingly to get Feng Ming.

The man that both of the world known as bi-preeminent hearts fallen for. What sort of form will he ultimately be?

When she received the report from servant, Miao Guang hastily freshly use some make up, neatly seated in the waiting room to solve the mystery.

"You're Miao Guang Princess?" Feng Ming first statement implied that he was stunned surprise at her appearance. The only country he had ever visited was Fan Jia, of course Fan Jia was superfluous of beautiful women, third princess was a beautiful woman among of beauties, which until now he had always thought that female in this period was a natural beauty equally those of deities.

Miao Guang ordinary appearance was a little disappointed, but the words had slipped from Feng Ming's lips, instantly regretted, "I'm really sorry, I... ha ha, I..."

Miao Guang laughed freely, softly asked, "You're Duke Ming?"

"Yes, I am Duke Ming. You could call me Feng Ming." Feng Ming and Chiu Lian's group were always disruptive and playful, does not uptight with manner details, thus came closer have a look

at Miao Guang, "You're Ruo Yan sister? Your shapes are dissimilar; I have to say... compared to him you are more gentle and serene."

"Is that so?"

Feng Ming does not know, under the appearance of good composure, she hidden her senses of being incredibly amazed upon seeing him.

The men of Xi-Rei have known to be the most handsome in the world. She of course had seen plenty of handsome men before, her brother king Ruo Yan, was also handsome well known throughout the world.

Nevertheless, Feng Ming, who was affected her brother king's heart....,

'Water.'

The first time she saw him, can only think of one word that is 'water'. His shinny black eyes have made her thought of the ocean that Miao Guang had read in the book. In the distance, the magnificent blue of the deep ocean must be like the energetic eyes of Duke Ming.

The sensitivity of a girl made Miao Guang understood the emotion what her brother king saw when he first seen Feng Ming. The royalty plot was able nurtured such a character to grow up

like this. How her brother could ignore this man? This person was untainted as pure water; he features showed naivety like a female thus he would be easily getting hooked.

The two curiously looked at each other. Miao Guang smiled calmly, "The mathematics methods of Feng Ming have astonished the world, Brother King had told me. He also mentioned the debate inside Fan Jia Palace, which made me laughed so hard that I have abdominal pain. Secretly told Duke Ming, Brother King has never been so humiliated. "

Feng Ming of course misled, he could not believe that Ruo Yan's sister could be this straightforward, compared with Ruo Yan deceitful personality, she was a hundred thousand times better. Therefore, could not say all those related by blood must be the same and to see one able to determine all or maybe it was just Ruo Yan who had inherited some bad genetics from his parents.

"Ha ha, the Young Princess is much cuter. Duchess Aunt Third Princess of Fan Jia always talked as third royal person,* and the same with Dowager Queen from morning to night, just listened to them made me miserable to death." Feng Ming friendliness immediately emerged, asked, "How old are you?"

Miao Guang secretly gazed on Feng Ming's face, his temple vein shows a vague pale purple colour and thought, *'it seem a few more days will be the first time for the toxic to attack, wonder how much Rong Tian will be hurts.'* She smiled sweetly, "I am twice eight years old."

"Twenty-eight? So old? "Feng Ming eyes widened, "Tsk." shook his head, "Doesn't look like it."

"Duke Ming is more interesting. I am not twenty-eight but sixteen. "

"So compared to me you're younger." Feng Ming pulled a chair next to Miao Guang, naturally sat down, "You're so young, Ruo Yan was so merciless to let you take a mission to Xi-Rei?"

Miao Guang had never seen such a person, astonish exclaimed, "Sixteen is the time to start a family, how could that be young?"

"Marriage?" Feng Ming with Miao Guang who body without the slightest trace of being similar to Ruo Yan, of course have forgotten that Miao Guang was Ruo Yan's sister, giggled, "You are very young and ready to have a family?" He laughed then suddenly a few ideas came to his mind, instantly unable to laugh.

'A mature man will get a wife and a mature female will take a husband', Miao Guang was sixteen and Rong Tian was seventeen, was at the right time to be married. Ruo Yan sent his sister to Xi-Rei, could it be possible...

Whatever in his heart thinking have always manifested on the face, Miao Guang immediately guessed and quickly take action.

"What Duke Ming was contemplating about?"

"I ... I ..." Feng Ming frowned, absent-minded shook his head, "Nothing." Could it be Rong Tian want to marry? Marriage proposal had always been a hot topic in ancient times. As he considered Rong Tian might marriage, the heart was averse and bitterness risen.

"I do not want to lie to Duke Ming," Miao Guang approached to Feng Ming's ear said, "I came here, to propose for marriage."

"Propose for marriage?" Feng Ming murmured.

"Yes, Xi-Rei King's coronate, Brother King's wanted stability in Li Kingdom and ordered Miao Guang to travels thousands of miles to come here and proposed for marriage. If the King consented, Miao Guang wills forever staying in Xi-Rei, never to return Li Kingdom. "

'That is correct, Rong Tian is a King, will definitely have to get married, to leave successors, definitely...'

Feng Ming felt like lightning had strike his body and feel cold all over, his face slowly paler, neutral tone, "So ... Congratulations to Princess." He did not feel like to stay any longer, stood up, clasped his hands before Miao Guang, "I will take my leave, Princess have a good rest."

"Duke Ming walks slowly. Miao Guang would like to discreetly talk with Your Grace on something." Miao Guang hands gently waved and the servants leaved them alone. They closed the door. She turned around and looked quietly at Feng Ming, and pursed her lips. She suddenly rushed forward and knelt down before Feng Ming's feet.

"Miao Guang dared to ask Duke Ming for a favour."

"Princess, what are you doing?" Feng Ming started take a step backward, incoherent asked, "What are you requesting me of? You want me to leave Rong Tian? You want me never to see him again? Or..."

It was quickly that he had come to such a situation, where this method often used in the traditional love novel and it made him feels very uncomfortable. Feng Ming despite being modern person was helpless could not facing the event with generosity.

Miao Guang answer was opposite to what Feng Ming contemplated, "I am request Duke Ming to help me to escape Xi-Rei capital!"

"What? You want to run away?" Feng Ming stiffened, "Do you not want to become Xi-Rei Queen?"

"Xi-Rei King's heart does not want to marry Miao Guang, but for Xi-Rei, he might consent to

the ally marriage with Brother King." Miao Guang lifted her head and sobbing, "For him...to him..."

When Feng Ming heard Miao Guang request to escape the capital of Xi-Rei, his heart relaxed, "You want to escape?"

"Yes, being a Princess only means to use for ally marriage, Miao Guang was forced by Royal Command to Xi-Rei."

"The first thing you should do is stand up, do not kneel anymore." When Feng Ming knew this person was not his love rival, his manner instantly changed, lowered his body to lift Miao Guang up, frowning said, "Nevertheless if you do not listen to Ruo Yan, whether escape from Xi-Rei will still be force return to Li Kingdom, what will happen later?" Miao Guang does not want to be a Rong Tian's Queen, of course was a good thing for Feng Ming.

He did not need any more persuasion to stand on the same side as Miao Guang.

Miao Guang face reddens, lowered her head and said, "I needs Duke Ming to help Miao Guang escaped Xi-Rei's Capital about fifty miles. Miao Guang could travel from there."

"Where are you going?"

"This..."

"If you're not telling, how could I be comfortable to help you?"

"Duke Ming was really willing to help me?" Miao Guang surprisingly lifted her head, did not dared to believe as she looked at Feng Ming, bitten her teeth, showed fervour and said shyly,

"Duke Ming have heard Yong Yin's First Prince Yong Yi? "

"Yong Yin Kingdom? The First Prince? "

Miao Guang clenched her teeth and proposed, "He also came here, offering gifts for Xi-Rei King enthronement. If I able to escape my servants, he will be waiting for me fifty miles outside of the capital."

"Ah," Feng Ming immediate wakened, clapped his hand and replied, "I understand now, you two had a little rendezvous under the moon aside the flowers, hoping..."

"Duke Ming..." Miao Guang revealed the embarrassment of a female, while serious face begged, "If this matter exposed, there will be problems between Yong Yin, Xi-Rei and Li Kingdom..."

"So that is the reason why I should not reveal this secret to anyone."

"Yes."

"I get it." Feng Ming nodded, "It best to get you out first, then faked that Your Highness become ill then die. It also means for Xi-Rei to give a reason to Li Kingdom for yours disappearance, they will not investigate further where Princess located. I have a servant called Lie-er, he was very accomplice in all aspects..."

Miao Guang shook her head and censured, "Duke Ming probably has forgotten, not to mention this to anyone? Otherwise, the consequences will be very serious."

"Yes, can't tell anyone." Feng Ming stuck his tongue out.

The great love story of this ancient period Feng Ming could involved, he of course felt very excited and constantly rubbed his hands for a while. Feng Ming's heart was moderate in cheerful mood and verbally abused Ruo Yan no better than a breed pigs, even take advantage of his own sister.

They secretly talks for a while and less than an hour later Feng Ming leaved the room, and went outside the house.

Chiu Lian sat at the porch outside had been waiting anxiously and she counted many tens, "Duke Ming had been in there for too long, your servants so scared and was about to dispatch someone report to the King."

"What Princess and Duke Ming had talked about? Suddenly closed the door, she is Ruo Yan's sister, Duke Ming must not let her deceived you. "

Feng Ming shook his head, "She's really pitiful."

"What? Pitiful? "

"Nothing." Feng Ming used his hand to cover his mouth, turned to Chiu Lian said, "Regard today that we sneaked out of the Palace, you'll not tell Rong Tian."

"Ah, Duke Ming, when you leaved the Palace, King already knew about it, how could we not tell him?"

"Well at least not telling him that I met Miao Guang Princess that would only stresses him. Maybe he even becomes very angry and given you away to serves some other people." Feng Ming intimidated them.

Chiu Xing patted her chest, carefully said, "No way! We only met Princess, she was alone in this solitary place, what could she possible do to harm Duke Ming? As the matter of speaking, her face appearance was not beautiful, so King will not be jealous of Duke Ming seeing her." In the end, this maidservant whole conversation returned to beauty topic.

When they had started talks about her face, the maidservants instant noisily discussed comparing between Miao Guang with third princess.

Feng Ming was familiar with the noisy chaotic sounds as he lifted up on the horse. He had hidden in the heart a huge secret, which made him feel enthusiasm with a sense of responsibility.

When he arrived back at the crown prince's quarter, immediately saw his servants was trembling kowtowed on the ground, upon saw Feng Ming, they all sighed with relieves, small voice said, "Please Duke Ming go inside, King said if he did not see Duke Ming, he will executes everyone here at once. "

Chiu Lian stood by one side started, pushed Feng Ming inside the door and did not dared to enter with him, she has no guts and hurrying fled.

Translator Note: * "third royal person" notion, which mention in the above chapter indicates to the king, queen, princess/prince has a personal way of addressing regarding of himself or herself to other. I do not think there any equivalent words to translate into English; this particular paragraph had mentioned this particular royal ritual customs.

Chapter XXV

Feng Ming was restlessly entered the room, did not have the time lifted his head up when his body instantly almost like skyrocket into the air, fallen into a familiar embraced arms.

Rong Tian angry face appeared overhead.

"Where did you go?"

"Outside the Palace." Feng Ming blinked.

"Who let you ran wild everywhere?"

Feng Ming amazement asked, "Did you not say as long as I'm in Xi-Rei, I could do whatever I want and absolutely no one could hurt me?"

Rong Tian was demoralized, lowered his head and rampaging attacked Feng Ming's lips, "It seems you're quibbled, when I'm back here, heard from the servant that you had taken Chiu Lian's group and leaved the Palace, almost worried me to death. Those maidservants become more irresponsible; I have to teach them a good lesson."

"The person who wants to go is me; you will not teach them a lesson."

"Yes, should be teaching you instead." When Rong Tian saw Feng Ming returned safely, his deeply anger very quickly died off. His surface tension slowly unwinds and laughed, "The next time you did it again I'll deal with you carefully. Ha ha, where had you gone to?"

Feng Ming rolled his eyes, "I'd gone to see yours ordered on the terraced field construction."

"How was it?"

The wolf claws penetrated into the layers of clothes, feeling every curve on the warm skin.

Feng Ming touched by familiar hands of Rong Tian, soon forgotten about the terraces field as his mind felt ecstasy, gently moving under Rong Tian's elbow as he made a deep throat groaned.

"I really want to eat you." Rong Tian's hearts burned with desire and love, and his eyes were full of appreciation.

Feng Ming lured by Rong Tian pleasures, which loses all his defence, sluggish said, "So you should eat."

Rong Tian's gentleman behaviours that rarely shown suddenly appeared as he shook his head laughing, "I cannot eat now."

"Why?" Feng Ming half opened the eyes, as his cheeks were flushed and asked.

Rong Tian watched, extremely itched and resumed kisses on the red berry lips. He gently undressed the other man. The fine silk garments were quickly disposed at Rong Tian's feet, one by one.

"Rong Tian..."

"Uhm?" Rong Tian raised an eyebrow as he placed Feng Ming who held across his hands onto the bed.

Feng Ming's desires began risen, pulled Rong Tian closer, "I want to..."

"What do you want?" Rong Tian made a wicked laugh.

There was a fire in his heart but he was afraid to take action. The deep loving eyes swept over slender body, Rong Tian flexible hands started playing beautiful music.

Feng Ming emitted purring sound like a cat, he held the beautiful curved body, under the comfort and caring administration of Rong Tian, the creamy fluid was poured out.

"Feng Ming, are you feel good?"

Feng Ming nodded then suddenly frowned, using the bed to push his body upward and bitten on Rong Tian's neck.

"Oh!" Rong Tian turned Feng Ming who laying on his chest and he slapped twice on Feng Ming buttock for punishment, "You dare to bite Xi-Rei King, you really have some nerve."

"I don't care; it always was you who saw my embarrassing face." Feng Ming turned his head; his black glowing eyes glared wide, "Don't you have a bad male habits? We just go straightforward for once. "

"Go straight forward?" In Rong Tian throat emitted a little dull murmurs.

'This little brat does not know what is between life and death, had recklessly invited me. If I have not been concerned for your body, I had early eaten you clean not even leaving any bones behind.' However, Rong Tian did not know that since the day Miao Guang mentioned to Feng Ming that Rong Tian certainly will need to get marry in the future, Feng Ming's heart had been miserable and dread, so an invitation to Rong Tian was in fact an anxiety that he did not able to control his sentiments.

"Yes. Although I am fear pain, but I suddenly saw that going this half, still... straightforward on should be a little better." Feng Ming said, he was very afraid but still reached out and actively covered the cock that highly erected.

The heat flowed from his erection was in turmoil, Rong Tian's patience culminating point had reached its limit.

"You really want me go all the way?" He was reluctantly held onto his rationalise, flowed with doubts as he carefully observed Feng Ming.

"Yes."

"Fear no pain?"

Feng Ming eyes closed tightly, bitten the bottom lip and nodded silently.

The gourmet was in front his eyes who could able to resist taken it. Rong Tian's heart screamed hysterically, but still gentle placed Feng Ming back onto the bed.

"Do not be afraid..." thicken sound full of passion with little patience echoed in the room.

"I ... I'm not afraid."

Once again, his stroked the curvy waist of Feng Ming, but found the body in his hands had became more stressed out and fast rigid. Feng Ming's face was paler began to scares him. Rong

Tian tried several times, but still not able to enter without hurting him when the body forcefully resisted, of course he had to stop.

"Feng Ming, you're too stiff."

"No way, I... I am trying hard cooperating with you." Feng Ming bitten his lower lip almost likes pierced it.

Rong Tian sighed, lowered head and jammed to Feng Ming's lips, "Do not move, and opens your mouth. Oh, you have bitten your lower lip and torn it." He frowned. "I'm afraid that before I've entered inside you, you would have passed away because of terror." He taken his hand and calmly handled the fire lust of his body, which could not play down.

White fluid flowed as he used a towel nearby to wipe away.

"Rong Tian..." Feng Ming grabbed his hand, looked at him pleading, "Can't we continue?"

"How could we continue when you're like this?" Rong Tian took him into his chest and reassured, "No need to be hurry, we still have the time. Wait until you are good prepared then we'll discuss it." *'Especially wait until after I am able to cure the poison on you which will be much better.'*

Feng Ming shook his head, his eyes hovered with ripples of light, "I want to be with you, same as a man and a woman is together."

"Don't cry you should not be angry and sad inside." Seeing tears fallen from Feng Ming, Rong Tian terrified.

"Why?"

"So why today your attitudes sudden difference and want me to eat you?"

Feng Ming did not speak up, just depressed gazing at Rong Tian. He finally whispered, "I just wanted to let you know, that I could bring pleasure to you."

"Of course you have given me pleasures."

Everything becomes tranquil; while a set of eyes brimmed with tears and the other set that saw through the world conspiracy were silent confront each other.

The person surrendered first was Rong Tian.

"Stop, if we not going to do it all the way, you will definitely be crying today." Rong Tian

pensive hesitated, "In Xi-Rei customs, young men always going through learning phrase from a superior to achieve the courage and craftiness. When I am a teenager, was also below."

"What are you saying..."

Rong Tian sighed not able to avoid said, "The time still long, I'll give in to you once?"

"You give in and let me top?" Feng Ming opened his eyes immediately, just as happy and just as scared.

"Is there another way?"

"Ah! That is good, too good!" Feng Ming excited shout and pushed himself up. He pressed the shoulder blades of Rong Tian and pinned the other man down on the bed and caressed, "You're very good with me, in this world you the one who treat me the best!"

His thought never thought such a good outcomes. If he knew it earlier, he would have proposal to eat King Rong already.

In the next second, Feng Ming like a tiger pounced on Rong Tian.

Giggled...

"Feng Ming, even you're on top, you should not tear out the clothing and damaged it."

"Sorry, sorry, excessive excitement, I could not control it."

"Gentle." Rong Tian moaned, "How could I be like this with you?"

"Sorry..."

Outside the prince's quarter, Chiu Lian was sneaky eardrop through the door.

She absolutely could not heard a sound from Rong Tian, only bellow excitement of Feng Ming,

"Little Tian, Tian, you're very muscular."

"I love you!"

"Could we be like this next time?"

Slowly the breath of Feng Ming began heavy paced; the moaning that made people blushed with embarrassment broken out the room.

Chiu Lian's group looked at each other confused and speechless.

Over half an hour, the groaning stopped as well, as if both of them were extremely tired to the point of exhaustion and had sunk into heavy sleep.

They were curious and about to put their head inside the room to see the result, the door suddenly burst opened, Rong Tian carried Feng Ming right across the threshold, his face was calmly indifferently while Feng Ming tired crumbling and had already asleep for some time.

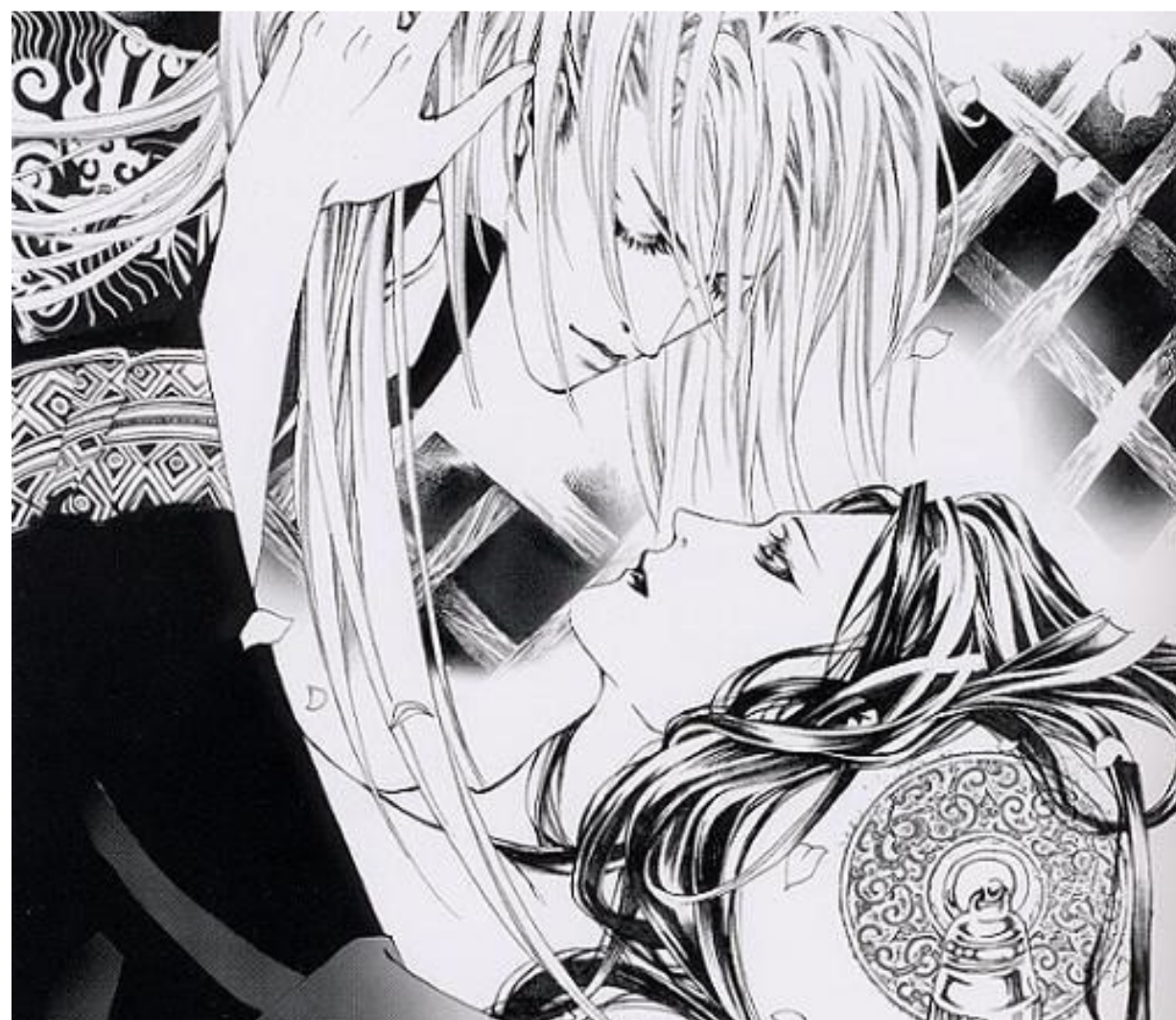
Rong Tian only wore a coat outside; his neck and the chest overflowed with wounds that Feng Ming had severity bitten. Chiu Lian carefully lifted her head slightly and quietly glanced, instantly blushed, immediately prostrate knelt down.

"Great king ..."

"Great king ..."

Rong Tian did not thought anything weird, only slightly lower his voice advised, "Prepare a bath."

The body in his arm had quietly moving; he suddenly frowned and lowered his head to look at Feng Ming who looks satisfied being carrying on his elbow. Although, he was sleeping but still smiling foolhardy, Rong Tian could not stop revealed a smile showing his amorously loved. His footsteps were a little difficult as he walked towards the bathroom.



Chapter XXVI

The next day, Feng Ming slept until the sun rose very high, opened his eyes. Rong Tian had already come back from the assembly. He sat on the bed, laughed as he watching Feng Ming stretched, "Are you tired?"

"This must be asking about last night." Feng Ming thought for a moment and shook his head, "No, I should be the one asked you about last night, are you're tired or not? Little Tian, are you tired?" He gentle asked Rong Tian.

Rong Tian slightly pulled his neck back, "Feng Ming, you should not use such outlandish language. Also, I forbade to you to call me Little Tian." He pulled Feng Ming from the bed toward him, leaned Feng Ming onto his shoulder, humbled from his high status to change clothes for Feng Ming.

"Don't you need to go to assembly?"

"Already did, has returned now." Rong Tian kissed lightly on his neck, "You had slept for a long time."

"I cannot imagine doing it thoroughly for once could be so tired." Feng Ming raised his eyebrows, "It almost like the whole body and bones fallen apart. I see you are very spirited; perhaps practicing martial art was particularly suitable for this type of activity? "

Rong Tian whole body stiffened.

"I'd already told you be good and practice martial arts but you always lazy and flee." He looked nonchalance and tucked away in his heart severe rolled of crashing waves.

The toxins have wriggled into the body of Feng Ming and had taking his life energy. Recently, Feng Ming spirit was very good, but often cried tiredness easily.

At the door, Lie-er silently signals for Rong Tian.

Rong Tian gently head bowed and whispered, "Feng Ming, you should rest till you feel better, I have something to do now."

"Good, you go, bye, bye." Feng Ming also had something to do, just because he had an amazing romantic night that does not mean he would forget about the pitiful Miao Guang princess.

Rong Tian was unwilling and lingered over his lover, wrapped around Feng Ming before departing the prince's quarter.

Chiu Xing brought up a little breakfast, stolen a glance at Feng Ming, grinned and smiled.

"What are you laughing about?"

"Congratulations to Duke Ming."

Feng Ming flushed up, glared at Chiu Xing and in a smaller voice, "Do not go around talking drivel."

Chiu Lian entered from outside, already happily giggled, "Why blab when everyone know."

"Everyone?" Feng Ming shock and sat up to ask, "Who is everyone?"

"Chiu Lian, all is good, why are you scaring Duke Ming?" Chiu Yue also brought food to him, "In total of everyone, only us three maidservant knew."

Feng Ming rubbed his chest, sat down and glared censure at Chiu Lian.

"Last night matter will not be discussed. Rong Tian after all, also the King of Xi-Rei... "

Chiu Lian laughed for a while and groaned, "Did not expected King to be that intimacy, so intimidate to point of frightened your maidservants. Duke Ming really blessed."

Feng Ming alarmed witness their self-pity crying, hurriedly eaten breakfast, stood up and said, "I want to go outside today, quickly go prepare for a horse."

"Duke Ming, where do you want to go?"

"That's right, King lost his temper yesterday."

"I'll go and see the terraces field, will return later."

"But you had gone there yesterday?"

"There a few things that need modifying, I want to look again then talked to Rong Tian."

Chiu Yue face was hopeful expectation, "Are you going to take your maidservants as well?"

Feng Ming hastily shook his head, "Next time." He was quickly likes lightning ran out of the prince's quarter.

The servant gave him his horse but also requested to follow and serve him. Feng Ming resolutely refused. They did not dare to stop him, cried out, "Duke Ming please hurry back early, yesterday, your servants nearly beheaded by the King."

"I know! Go! "

When he leaved the palace; of course, have not considered going to terrace field. The happy life

of Miao Guang princess with Yong Yi prince was in his hand. He feared there might be someone secretly followed so he shows off his driven techniques to fool them. He intentional galloped the internal palace ground for two loops, then from a secret place took out a civilian clothes that prepared prior and dressed before rode the horse in the direction Bac Huy residence.

Miao Guang had waited for Feng Ming, as she saw him, immediately pulled him to a secret basement and door closed.

"Duke Ming finally here, last night I was unable to sleep only feared Duke Ming had forgotten my trouble already."

"Why would I?" Feng Ming sat down, take a sip of hot tea, "If I could have come early I would have done right away. Princess, yesterday, we did not have time to discuss the escaping detail, it best that you told me everything for once. "

"I am waiting for Duke Ming's idea, why are you asking me?" Miao Guang gently laughed and bitten her lips thoughtfully, "This is very difficult. First, to leave the city that no one would know. Second, to escape pursuers, and third, after escaped not to let anyone knows where I am going. If not Brother King will be demand Yong Yin for me."

"The specific issues had already meticulously analysed." Feng Ming contemplates, then said, "To leave the city without any one knows..."

"Miao Guang had already thought of an approach so Duke Ming needs not to be worry about this."

"That is good then; the best way to avoid encountered pursuers was to find a person to distract the soldiers to a different direction." He had been reading martial arts novels for many years at last it had become useful.

"That is correct, but currently very difficult problem." Miao Guang face sadden, forced a smile said, "However, who would lead the soldiers away? This person must be courage and clever, moreover must know the internal situation. Among my close attendants, there are some likely able to lead troops to another direction. Nevertheless, when they are capture by Xi-Rei soldiers, though they may not get kill, but will suffered for interrogation because they would not reveal my hiding places. Oh, how could Miao Guang be happy when I pushed others to the death door?" She sat down slowly and bowed her head in silent.

Feng Ming never had thought that Ruo Yan's sister to be kind heart person, though not beautiful, but the most important thing was to have a noble heart. When he saw her poignant exclamation, his hero-complex instantly emerged and felt strong sense of partnership.

"I will distract the troops for Princess."

"Ah? Duke Ming..." Miao Guang looked amazement at Feng Ming, constantly shook her head,

"No, Duke Ming have precious status, of course a thousand times should be no. "

"Of course it is possible. I will distract the soldiers, even if the soldier caught me, Rong Tian at worse will be only scolding me for a while, absolutely will not harm me. Where you are going, I will never tell him. Are Your Highness refused my help because I am not brave and clever enough? "

Miao Guang grateful looked at Feng Ming, "Li Kingdom and Xi-Rei never was on good term, Duke Ming and Brother King also loathe each other. Why Duke Ming would treat such kindness to Miao Guang? Are you not frightened that may be Brother King and Miao Guang used scheme and together planned to harm Duke Ming? "



【鳳于名場面】
偷窺前・偷窺後

END VOLUME II